

Laid on the Table of the Senate by Sen. Mukiie. 03/06/16

**PARLIAMENT OF KENYA
THE SENATE**

INTERNAL MEMO

To: Speaker of the Senate;
Thro': Clerk of the Senate;
From: Deputy Director, Legislative and Procedural Services;
Date: 3rd June, 2016

RT Hon Speaker
You may approve/sign for tabling.
03/06/16

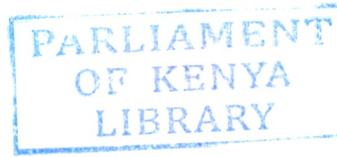
RE: REPORTS OF THE 133RD AND 134TH ASSEMBLIES OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION AND RELATED MEETINGS HELD IN GENEVA, AND LUSAKA FROM 15TH TO 21ST OCTOBER, 2015 AND 17TH TO 23RD MARCH, 2016 RESPECTIVELY

The above matter refers.

This is to submit for your approval, the above two reports for tabling before the Senate.

S. N. Ruge
S. N. Ruge

Approved
[Signature]
Speaker
03/06/16





PARLIAMENT OF KENYA
THE SENATE

INTERNAL MEMO

Laid on the
of the Senate
8/6/16 by
Sen. Mukite
LH
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Speaker
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REPUBLIC OF KENYA



PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

(FOURTH SESSION)

REPORT OF THE 134TH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) AND RELATED MEETINGS
HELD IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA
(MARCH 17 - 23, 2016)

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI.

MAY, 2016

*Paper laid on
the table of the
Senate on 23/05/16
by Sen. Muciri
LMP
08/06/16*

FOREWORD

Hon. Members,

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the world organization of Parliaments, is a global forum for parliamentary dialogue, co-operation and action. The Union advances democracy and assists Parliaments and parliamentarians throughout the world to fulfill their mandates. The IPU facilitates parliamentary debate, dialogue and cooperation and also promotes and defends democracy and the rule of law while assisting Parliaments in coping with an ever growing international agenda relevant to their duties.

As the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue since 1889, the IPU works towards peace and cooperation among peoples and for the solid establishment of representative institutions. Specifically, the IPU aims at-

- a) Fostering contacts, coordination and the exchange of experience among Parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries;
- b) Considering questions of international interest and express its views on such issues with the aim of bringing about action by Parliaments and their members;
- c) Contributing to the defence and promotion of human rights, which are universal in scope and respect for which is an essential factor of parliamentary democracy and development; and
- d) Contributing to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action.

The IPU Assembly is the principle statutory body that expresses the views of the Inter Parliamentary Union on political issues. It brings together parliamentarians to study international problems and make recommendations for parliamentary and governmental action. The Assembly meets twice a year and is held each time in a different country, providing participants with an opportunity to see various national realities.

Other statutory organs of the IPU are the Governing Council, the Executive Committee, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians and the IPU Secretariat. The IPU works through Committees, working groups and special purpose *ad-hoc* bodies. The following bodies are currently in place-

- i) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security;
- ii) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade;
- iii) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights;
- iv) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs;
- v) Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians;
- vi) Committee on Middle East Questions;
- vii) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus;
- viii) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law;
- ix) Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health;
- x) Committee on Women Parliamentarians;
- xi) Gender Partnership Group; and
- xii) The Forum for Young Parliamentarians;

The IPU supports the efforts of the United Nations, whose objectives it shares, and works in close co-operation with it. The Union also co-operates with regional inter-parliamentary organizations, as well as with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which are motivated by the same ideals.

Hon. Members,

The 134th IPU Assembly and related meetings was held in Lusaka, Zambia, from March, 17 to 23rd, 2015. The Kenyan Delegation comprised the following Members:-

- 1) The Hon. Sen. David Ekwee Ethuro, EGH, MP;
- 2) The Hon. David Pkosing Losiaku, MP;
- 3) The Hon. Sen. Catherine Mukiite Nabwala, MP;
- 4) The Hon. Sen. Mutula Kilonzo Junior, MP
- 5) The Hon. Sarah Paulata Korere, MP;
- 6) The Hon. Steven Kariuki, MP;
- 7) The Hon. Sen. Naisula Lesuuda, OGW, MP;
- 8) Hon. John Nyagah Muchiri, MP;
- 9) Hon. Rachel Ameso Amolo, MP; and
- 10) Mr. Jeremiah Nyegenye, Clerk of the Senate.

Hon. Members,

The Parliament of Kenya is well represented in the IPU. During the 133rd IPU Assembly, the Speaker of the Senate of Kenya, Sen. David Ekwee Ethuro, EGH, MP was elected to the Executive Committee, for a term of four years. The Executive Committee is a 15-member Committee that oversees the programmes of the IPU. Hon. David Pkosing, MP is a member of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights and while Sen. Catherine Mukiite Nabwala, MP is a member in the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs.

In addition, Sen. Mutula Kilonzo Junior, MP was elected to the position of co-Rapporteur to the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights on the topic, *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective* where the Committee will debate and propose a Resolution to the IPU at its 135th Assembly.

Hon. Members,

During the 134th Assembly and its related meetings, members of the Kenyan delegation were actively involved in the deliberations of the Assembly and its Committees that greatly enriched the resolutions and outcomes that were arrived at.

Meetings of the 134th Assembly included:

- 1) The Assembly: *General Debate*: where members were provided with an opportunity to exchange views on ways of reviving the interest of the younger generation in the functioning of parliaments;
- 2) The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, where members deliberated on a draft resolution under the topic *Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and individual rights*;
- 3) The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, where the Committee deliberated in an interactive debate, the subject of its next resolution *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective*;
- 4) The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, where the Committee commented on the new process of selection of the new United Nations

Secretary General and institutional arrangements made for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

- 5) The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, where the Committee deliberated on its resolution entitled *Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity.*

Hon. Members,

On behalf of the Kenyan delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for bestowing upon us the important task of representing Kenya in one of the most important fora in the associations of Parliaments.

Hon. Members,

Article 7 of the IPU Statute mandates member Parliaments to submit the resolutions of the IPU within their respective Parliaments, *in the most appropriate form; to communicate them to the Government; to stimulate their implementation and to inform the IPU Secretariat, as often and fully as possible, particularly in its annual reports, of the steps taken and the results obtained.*

In accordance with Article 7 of the Statutes of the IPU, it is my pleasure and humble duty to submit this report, highlighting the proceedings and resolutions of the 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Related Meetings to Parliament for debate and necessary action.

Thank you.

SEN. EKWEE ETHURO, EGH, MP
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE.



Inter-Parliamentary Union
for democracy for everyone.

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134th Assembly

1. Inaugural ceremony

The inaugural ceremony took place at the Government Complex on Saturday, 19 March 2016 at 7.30 p.m., with H.E. the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, in attendance.

Mr. Patrick Matibini, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, stressed that strong parliaments were essential to democratic development and welcomed the IPU's work in that area. The theme of the 134th Assembly provided an opportunity to harness the energy and potential of young people and to help them participate fully in social, political and economic life, thus providing the right stimulus to create the leaders of tomorrow. It was vital to overcome the barriers to youth participation and tackle the chronic underrepresentation of young people in political institutions. The Assembly also enabled IPU Members to identify action to be taken, share experiences and best practices, and ensure that young people's voices were better heard in the democratic process.

Mr. Saber Chowdhury, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, thanked the hosts, stressing the truly diverse character of Zambia. Speaking on the theme of the Assembly, he noted that youth disillusionment lay at the heart of a range of challenges currently facing the world. It was up to parliaments to regain young people's trust, inspire them to enter politics and convince them that their voices counted. It was essential to modernize the democratic system, and to overcome legislative and socioeconomic barriers to youth participation. The IPU was playing its role in tackling those problems through standards-setting and advocacy work.

He paid tribute to the late Zambian President Michael Sata, who had been a great champion of the IPU and who had served on its Executive Committee. President Sata had invited the Organization to hold the current Assembly in Zambia. The IPU President asked all the participants to observe a minute of silence in memory of the late President.

He welcomed new and returning IPU Members, Associate Members and Permanent Observers, and drew attention to the revised IPU Strategy, due to be adopted at the 135th Assembly in Geneva. In order to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were met, parliaments had to be fit for purpose. The IPU was helping to achieve that objective through seminars, workshops and capacity-building initiatives, including the development of a self-assessment toolkit. The IPU also strove to innovate and take measures to reduce the carbon footprint of parliaments and the Organization.

H.E. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, welcomed the delegates to Zambia and said that his country was honoured to host the 134th Assembly. He described Zambia's journey from a single-party State to a multi-party democratic system and stressed its deep commitment to democracy, peace and good governance. Those principles were reflected in Zambia's regional peacekeeping role, its interaction with like-minded States and membership of international organizations and forums, such as the IPU. The path to hosting the 134th Assembly had begun in 2012, when the late President Sata had expressed an interest in Zambia hosting the event.

Strong parliaments contributed to strong democracies. They needed to reflect the hopes, aspirations and concerns of all citizens, including young people. Zambia was committed to engaging young people, who formed the majority of the population, and had implemented a range of measures, including programmes developed as part of the African Youth Decade 2009–2018 and its own national youth policy, to create a generation of skilled, enlightened and empowered young people.

Nevertheless, in addition to empowering young people, it was also essential to provide the necessary guidance and support to equip them to handle responsibility and power.

There was a need to move from words to deeds, and the 134th IPU Assembly provided an opportunity to translate ideas into action. Echoing the words of former UN Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, President Lungu stressed that young people should be at the forefront of global change and wished the 134th Assembly every success in its deliberations.

2. Election of the President

The first plenary sitting of the 134th IPU Assembly opened at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre (MICC) in Lusaka in the morning of Sunday 20 March, with the election of Mr. P. Matibini, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, as President of the Assembly.

3. Participation

Delegations from 126 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly¹:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The following six Associate Members also took part in the Assembly: the Arab Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino), the Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Observers comprised representatives of: (i) the United Nations system: the United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Women, the World Health Organization (WHO); (ii) the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI); (iii) the African Union, the League of Arab States; (iv) the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), the African Parliamentary Union (APU), the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), the Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC), the Maghreb Consultative Council, the Pan African Parliament, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries (TurkPA), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum; (v) the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria; (vi) Socialist International; (vii) the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).

Of the 1,227 delegates who attended the Assembly, 634 were members of parliament. Those parliamentarians included 36 Presiding Officers, 38 Deputy Presiding Officers and 190 women (29.9%).

4. Emergency item

(a) Choice of an emergency item

On 20 March 2016, the President informed the Assembly that the following four requests for the inclusion of an emergency item had been proposed:

- *Completing the process for international recognition of a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital: The role of parliaments* (Morocco);
- *Human trafficking: An act of terrorism, a grave violation of human rights and human dignity, and a threat to regional and international peace and security* (Sudan);

¹ For the complete list of IPU Members, see page 27

- *Parliamentary powers in democracies and the importance of the oversight function* (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- *Giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status: One of the major challenges of the humanitarian crisis in the 21st century* (France and Uruguay).

The delegations of Morocco and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela withdrew their proposals before the vote.

The Assembly proceeded with a roll-call vote on the two remaining items (see pages 42-43). The proposal put forward jointly by France and Uruguay was adopted and added to the agenda as Item 8.

(b) Debate on the emergency item

Giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status: One of the major challenges of the humanitarian crisis in the 21st century (Item 8)

The debate on the emergency item was held in the morning of 21 March 2016 with Ms. N. Motsamai, Speaker of the National Assembly of Lesotho, in the chair.

Before the debate, Ms. L. Dumont (France), co-author of the joint proposal, made a brief presentation on the emergency item. She reminded parliamentarians of alarming figures: more than 230 million children under five years of age were without an identity. She urged parliamentarians to work with their respective governments to establish a better registration system for children, provide free birth certificates and allocate adequate funds for civil registries in the national budget. She underscored the need to facilitate the registration process for all citizens regardless of where they lived.

Subsequently, three speakers took the floor during the debate, from Belgium, Mexico and the United Arab Emirates. They reiterated that all children, particularly those affected by war and conflict, should be duly registered so they could enjoy all their rights throughout their lives. One delegate referred to the “IPU-UNICEF Parliamentary workshop on the right to identity: Promoting universal birth registration in Latin America and the Caribbean”, held in Lima, Peru, in June 2013. She reminded IPU Members that parliamentarians at that workshop had agreed to work for universal birth registration.

Other delegates emphasized that special attention was needed for children in situations of conflict, war or living in foreign countries following forced migration. One delegate underscored the urgent need to enact legislation on naturalization so that children without an identity could enjoy their rights in the country where they lived. He added that such legislation should not discriminate against children based on race, ethnicity or religion but rather ensure that each State provided the necessary protection to all people on its territory. Another delegate underscored the importance for all children, while awaiting their registration, to receive the necessary help and assistance. Children without an identity often also became stateless, an important issue that the IPU had been working on. He suggested that the matter of children without a civil status should go beyond the emergency item of the current Assembly and be dealt with by another IPU event or body.

The other co-author of the proposal, Mr. R. Martínez Huelmo (Uruguay), underscored that parliamentarians should not just debate but take necessary actions through legislation and disseminate their ideas throughout the world.

Before concluding the debate, the Chair expressed the hope that the emergency item resolution would lead to concrete actions by parliaments that would help children to regain the rights of which they were deprived.

The Assembly referred the emergency item to a drafting committee composed of representatives of Bahrain, Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, France, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Mexico, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

(c) Adoption of the resolution on the emergency item

On 22 March, the Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution on the emergency item.

5. Debates and decisions of the Assembly and its Standing Committees

(a) General Debate: *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth*

High-level segment

The General Debate was introduced by a number of high-level speakers, including the Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, who emphasized the importance of youth participation in decision-making at the national level. He affirmed the need to promote youth-led structures in parliament and to empower young parliamentarians. Youth participation at all levels of governance would strengthen accountability and support the implementation of international commitments. He also underlined the importance of providing both a gender and a youth perspective to the work of parliament.

Ms. M. Mensah-Williams, Speaker of the National Council of Namibia and President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, argued that, to remain relevant, democracies should be constantly renewed through greater inclusiveness and representation. Both women and young people under 30 were underrepresented. In particular, women were often prevented from exercising their political rights because of challenges such as gender stereotyping and discrimination. In order to open up parliament to young women, the status quo must be changed, existing practices questioned and barriers lifted. The message that politics was for everyone should be promoted. The seeds of political empowerment should be planted at an early age for young girls and boys. Parliaments needed to change the way they worked in order to become more gender-sensitive. One way to achieve that was through a review of their processes, infrastructures, working cultures and operational environments. In such challenging times, the answer was more democracy, not less.

Mr. V. Gapsys (Lithuania), a member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU, drew attention to the paradox between the increasing development of democratic institutions and the decreasing confidence that the public and young people had in them. To address that paradox, democracies needed to adapt to a digital world that had changed the way people lived and communicated. Parliaments should use those technologies to bridge the offline and online worlds and to bring democracy closer to the people. Young people were instrumental in bringing about that change for the good of all people. However, a number of obstacles stood in their way. Youth representation in parliaments was lacking and young people felt frustrated by a system that they felt did not speak for them. The IPU had been at the forefront of addressing those shortcomings, but it was time to go further. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU had made recommendations on how to remedy the situation, such as by increasing youth representation and empowering young people to engage in politics more effectively. Young people wanted to engage and both young and old should work together to translate that aspiration into a more democratic course for everyone.

Ms. A. King (New Zealand), in her capacity as Acting President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, underscored that young parliamentarians should be better represented in parliament. Parliamentarians of all ages should play a role in breaking down barriers to promote inclusiveness. In a rapidly changing world with an emerging digital era, qualifications students earned today would be obsolete by 2025. Young people already faced growing pressures, including insecurity, violence, joblessness, poverty and educational disparity. The unsavoury mix of disillusionment, alienation and distrust that was developing among young people had been accompanied by an inability of parliaments to urgently address those concerns. Young people wanted transparency and oversight, both to fight corruption and to help implement fair, equitable and sustainable development. Some positive work was already underway, such as the establishment of youth parliaments, the promotion of civic education and the increasing use of social media and online tools to reach out to new audiences. However, more was needed. Ms. King described how young people had collectively engaged on social media during and after a tragic earthquake in New Zealand, and stressed that young people should be allowed to take up more responsibilities for the public good.

Mr. A. Alhendawi, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, drew attention to a number of mistaken assumptions. He said that persons under 30 years of age now comprised the majority of the world population. As such, young people were not only the future, but also the present. Politicians should not be working for youth as a favour. Instead, they should be capitalizing on young people's qualities to support existing political institutions. Young people were not a liability, but rather an incredible opportunity. He objected to the belief that all extremists were young, and argued instead that young people were the victims of extremism. Moreover, young people were neither lazy nor apathetic. The reason for youth disengagement was that political processes were unattractive and needed to adapt to the digital era. He highlighted achievements made in the technology sector to illustrate the point that

young people were ready to lead: they had been leading in Silicon Valley and other high-tech centres for some time. Investing in youth was a requirement and proper account must be taken of the needs of young women. In sum, young people were the key driving force that could bring about democratic rejuvenation.

Ms. Y. Chaka Chaka, Artist and UN Goodwill Ambassador for the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, cautioned against standing idle while efforts were being made both to empower young men and women and to protect children from disease. Young people were disenfranchised and many countries experienced a brain drain they could ill-afford due to lack of opportunities. No decisions about young people should be taken without including young people in those decisions. More generally, politicians needed to be more accessible to all people. Politics should not be about corruption or self-interest but about empowering the people. Young people were going to change democracy but more young people still needed to be represented in political institutions. The young and the older generations needed to work together by complementing each other and, above all, respecting one another. She concluded that there would be no wealth without health and education.

The debate also featured special presentations by Mr. V. Nayak, a young student who had worked as a digital constituency manager for the 2012 Barack Obama presidential campaign in the United States of America, and Ms. C. Phiri, a young boxing champion from Zambia.

Mr. V. Nayak discussed the need for politics to be brought to young people where they were and in a way that appealed to them. His experiences as a digital programmes manager had served that very purpose. He described aspects of his work which had involved developing online tools designed to engage young people on social media and encourage them to spread their views. Digital technologies could act as vehicles to enhance youth engagement. Mr. Nayak encouraged parliamentarians to use those tools to conduct online petitions, virtual town halls and live streaming. However, digital communications were not enough on their own. A new, more authentic way of doing politics was also needed, which would speak to young people today. To further increase the political participation of young people, the age of eligibility to vote and run for office should be lowered.

Ms. C. Phiri presented her own personal experiences from growing up as a young girl in poverty in Lusaka to becoming a world-renowned boxing champion. Her experience underlined the importance of hard work and determination. She emphasized that education and sports were critical elements in the empowerment of young people, as they embodied principles that were of higher, longer-lasting value than material objects. She left the audience with an inspiring message that self-discipline, time management and focus were key factors that had enabled her to overcome poverty and become a sports icon.

During the three days of debate, representatives of 95 Member Parliaments, four Associate Members and six Permanent Observers spoke on the theme. The debate provided them with an opportunity to exchange views on ways of reviving the interest of the younger generation in politics in general and the functioning of parliaments in particular. The experience of the debate at the IPU Assembly in Lusaka was ample proof that the IPU was on its way to opening up to new times and new themes.

In the afternoon of 22 March, the Assembly heard an address by the Foreign Minister of Zambia, Mr. H. Kalaba, who commended the IPU for placing emphasis on the need to rejuvenate politics, mentioning that Zambia could in many ways serve as an example. Zambia was committed to giving its young people a voice in politics and in society in general. That was evidenced by the young faces seen among the Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament. On its paths towards sustainable development and the achievement of the SDGs, the country was keen to draw inspiration from best practices in other countries in terms of good governance, transparency and inclusiveness.

In light of the terrorist attacks that had occurred the previous day in Brussels, the IPU President read out a statement on 22 March condemning the attacks and all forms of terrorism. The Assembly subsequently endorsed the statement (see page 46).

(b) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held four sittings from 20 to 22 March, with its President, Mr. R. Tau (South Africa) in the chair. At its first sitting, the Committee considered an explanatory memorandum and draft resolution entitled *Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and individual rights*, jointly drafted by the co-Rapporteurs Ms. C. Guittet (France) and Mr. K. Hari Babu (India). It also considered 95 proposed amendments to the draft resolution submitted by 17 Member Parliaments and the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

Approximately half of the proposed amendments were approved and many sub-amendments were also accepted.

At the sitting on 22 March, the Committee adopted the revised text by consensus. The delegation of India expressed a reservation on the use of the expression “right to a private life”.

The draft resolution was submitted to the Assembly, meeting in plenary, on the afternoon of 23 March and was adopted by consensus. The title of the resolution was amended by the Assembly to: *Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and human rights*. The delegation of India reiterated its reservation.

Elections to the Bureau were held at the fourth and final sitting of the Committee. The three vacant posts were filled. Elections for the posts of President and Vice-President of the Committee were then held. Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico) was elected President of the Committee and Mr. D. Pacheco (Portugal) was elected Vice-President.

The Bureau met on 21 March to discuss the Committee's next subject item and future work programme. Four subject items had been received by the deadline and were discussed by the members of the Bureau. The Bureau decided to propose to the Committee the topic submitted by the delegation of the Russian Federation albeit with a substantially revised title. The Committee agreed that, at the 136th Assembly, its draft resolution would be entitled *The role of parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States*. That proposal was subsequently approved by the Assembly.

The Bureau agreed to focus its work at the 135th IPU Assembly on two types of activities: an expert panel on the theme chosen by the Committee for debate and one (or two) panel discussion(s) on the theme(s) of the remaining proposals.

(c) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade held three sittings from 20 to 22 March, with its Vice-President, Mr. O. Hav (Denmark) and Bureau member Ms. N. Marino (Australia), in the chair. The Standing Committee had before it an explanatory memorandum and draft resolution, entitled *Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity*, jointly prepared by the co-Rapporteurs, Mr. A. Destexhe (Belgium) and Mr. H. Kouskous (Morocco). It also had before it 169 proposed amendments to the draft resolution submitted by 16 Member Parliaments.

The Committee first heard a presentation of the draft resolution by the co-Rapporteurs and then held a short debate. A total of 17 speakers took the floor. The Standing Committee then proceeded to consider the proposed amendments in two plenary sittings. The co-Rapporteurs endeavoured to merge as many amendments as possible.

At its final sitting on 22 March, the Standing Committee unanimously adopted the consolidated draft. The Committee agreed that Mr. A. Cissé (Mali) would present the draft resolution to the Assembly.

The draft resolution was submitted to the Assembly at its plenary sitting in the afternoon of 23 March and was adopted unanimously.

At its final sitting and at the proposal of the Bureau, the Standing Committee adopted its next subject item, *Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development*. The Committee approved the nomination of Ms. G. Cuevas (Mexico) and Ms. P. Mahajan (India) as co-Rapporteurs.

In terms of the work plan for the 135th Assembly, the Committee approved the proposal of the Bureau to organize a debate on the subject item as well as a panel discussion on the theme, *The role of parliaments in countering the activities of vulture funds*.

Lastly, the Committee elected the Bureau as proposed by the geopolitical groups. It also elected Ms. S. Tioulong (Cambodia) as its President and Mr. A. Cissé (Mali) as its Vice-President (see page 25).

(d) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights held two sittings on 21 and 22 March 2016 with its Acting President, Ms. A. King (New Zealand) in the chair.

At its first sitting, the Committee approved the nomination of the two co-Rapporteurs for its next resolution, Ms. S. Lines (Australia, replacing Ms. L. Markus) and Mr. M. Kilonzo Junior (Kenya). The co-Rapporteurs participated in an interactive debate on the subject of the Committee's next resolution, *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective*. They were joined on the panel by Mr. N. Erskine-Smith (Canada), Ms. M. Azer Abdelmalak (Egypt) and Mr. J. Zangpo (Bhutan). Thirty-two delegates took part in the debate, including 18 women and 14 men (see full report on page 47). The Chair invited all members to submit their written inputs for the draft resolution by 10 April.

At its second sitting, the Committee held a debate on *Open Parliaments: Building an association on accountability* with Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico), Mr. N. Evans (United Kingdom), Mr. C. Chauvel (UNDP) and Mr. D. Swislow (National Democratic Institute) serving as panellists. Twenty-three parliamentarians participated in the debate, of whom 18 were men and five were women (see full report on page 48).

At its second sitting, the Committee held elections for the vacant seats on its Bureau. The Asia-Pacific Group nominated Mr. P. Wangchuk (Bhutan) and the Twelve Plus Group nominated Mr. J. Lacão (Portugal). Both nominations were approved by the Committee. Four more vacant posts remained unfilled. After the Committee sitting, the Asia-Pacific Group submitted the candidature of Mr. A.Y. Desai (India) to fill one of the vacancies. That nomination would be submitted to the Committee at the 135th Assembly.

The Acting President informed the Committee that the geopolitical groups had jointly agreed that the next President of the Committee would be from the African Group. As the nomination for the post of President had not yet been received, the election of the next President would be deferred to the 135th Assembly. The vacant post for the Vice-President would be filled at the same time.

(e) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

During the first sitting of the Committee, members commented on the new process for the selection of the United Nations Secretary-General, as outlined in a detailed background note prepared by the IPU Secretariat.

The Committee heard presentations from Ms. Y. Terlingen, a representative of the *1 for 7 Billion Campaign*, working to change the selection process; Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation); and Ms. G. Ortiz (Mexico) and a member of the Committee's Bureau.

The participants asked the IPU to transmit the following three questions to all candidates running for the position of UN Secretary-General:

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be successful if members of parliament are involved in developing national action plans, monitoring implementation, and aligning budgets and legislation with the Agenda. As United Nations Secretary-General, would you advocate for parliamentary engagement in the implementation of the new 2030 Agenda and associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among Member States?
- Numerous UN General Assembly resolutions and UN Secretary-General reports recommend a strong relationship between the United Nations and national parliaments, as well as with the IPU. As UN Secretary-General, what specific actions would you take to strengthen these relationships at the global and national levels to more effectively serve the people?
- As representatives of the people, parliamentarians want to ensure a more democratic process for the selection of the UN Secretary-General. What role can parliamentarians, through the IPU (the world organization of parliaments), play in this process?

At the second sitting, the Committee was briefed on the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the SDGs. Mr. L. Borbely (Romania), Ms. P. Torsney and Mr. A. Motter (IPU Secretariat) and Mr. C. Chauvel (UNDP), made presentations on the topic.

It was agreed that each first annual session of the Standing Committee would henceforth be utilized to: (i) take stock of global progress on the SDGs (UN reports); (ii) prepare parliaments for the voluntary national reviews by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; (iii) encourage parliaments to perform a self-assessment of their capacity to implement the SDGs and share best practices.

The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs met on 22 March. Mr. A. Romanovich (Russian Federation) was elected to the Bureau, as was Ms. A.R. Albasti (United Arab Emirates) and Mr. A.F.I. Al-Mansour (Sudan). Mr. Al-Mansour became Vice-President of the Committee, replacing Mr. M. El Hassan Al Amin (Sudan).

6. Concluding sitting

At its final sitting in the afternoon of 23 March, the Assembly had before it the results of the work of the Standing Committees, as well as the Outcome Document of the General Debate, *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth*.

Following the presentation of the reports of the Standing Committees and the adoption of the resolutions, the President of the Assembly invited Ms. G. Kokorwe, Speaker of the National Assembly of Botswana, and Mr. O. Yanar, a young member of parliament from Finland, to present the Outcome Document of the General Debate (see page 29). Representing both sexes, senior parliamentary leaders and young parliamentarians, majority leaders as well as minorities in parliament and in society, they gave a powerful testimony to the outcome of the very rich and substantive Assembly proceedings. They called on all participants to follow up on the specific recommendations from the Outcome Document and to report back to the IPU on progress made.

The Assembly concluded with statements from the representatives of the geopolitical groups: Mr. K. Al Maawali (Oman) on behalf of the Arab Group, Ms. A. Rasheed (Maldives) on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, Mr. R. León (Chile) on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. P. Mahoux (Belgium) on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, and Mr. P. Nzengue Mayila (Gabon) on behalf of the Africa Group. They expressed their immense satisfaction with the Assembly, which had culminated in tangible and topical outcomes, as well as their deep appreciation for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements provided by the host country, Zambia.

The IPU President reiterated his thanks to the Zambian hosts for ensuring the success of the Assembly, to the IPU Members and partners for their constructive contributions and engagement, as well as to the IPU Secretariat and support staff for their dedication and hard work.

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, summing up the results of the Assembly, thanked all the participants for their active involvement and declared the 134th Assembly closed.

198th session of the Governing Council

1. Membership and Permanent Observers of the IPU

At its sitting on 20 March, the Governing Council approved requests for reaffiliation from the Parliaments of Egypt and Comoros, as well as a request for affiliation from the Parliament of Guyana. The Council also approved a request for associate membership from the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), formerly a Permanent Observer. The overall membership of the IPU was thus raised to 170 parliaments and 11 Associate Members.

The Council also approved a request for permanent observer status from the Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR). An updated list of Permanent Observers of the IPU can be found on page 83.

The Council was apprised of the situation of certain parliaments and took note of relevant recommendations adopted by the Executive Committee with regard to each of them. The Council approved the decision to remove Burkina Faso and Haiti from the list of countries to be closely monitored as the transitional period had ended in the former case and a fully functioning parliament was in place in the latter. It decided to continue to monitor developments in Burundi and engage with the parliament. Regarding the Central African Republic, the Council decided to continue to monitor the situation closely until the transitional period had been completed. It also decided to follow developments closely in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As for Libya, it decided to keep monitoring the situation and expressed the hope that the current peace talks would reach a successful conclusion. Now that a bicameral parliament was in place in Madagascar, the Council considered that the IPU should provide support to it. As parliamentary elections were scheduled to take place in the Syrian Arab

Republic on 14 April, the Council decided to continue to closely monitor the situation and engage with the parliament. Regarding Thailand, the Council decided to continue to monitor the situation through direct contacts with the National Legislative Assembly. It also decided to keep a close eye on the situation in Venezuela, express its solidarity with the parliament and dispatch an on-site mission to the country. The Council decided to keep the situation in Yemen under review and requested updates from Members (see relevant section on Executive Committee on page 15).

2. Financial results for 2015

The Governing Council considered the Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2015. The Financial Statements had been prepared in full compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The accounts of the IPU and the closed Pension Fund were again consolidated into a single set of financial statements.

The financial results for 2015 were introduced by Mr. R. del Picchia (France), Chair of the Sub-Committee on Finance, who conveyed the External Auditor's positive impression of the financial statements and internal controls. Although the IPU had recorded a reduction in its net assets of CHF 494,596, that was due in part to losses on investments in a challenging global environment. The closed Pension Fund remained a risk which was, however, well managed and fully provided for in the accounts. As a result, the balance of the Working Capital Fund now stood at CHF 8.6 million at year-end, of which CHF 6.6 million represented available funds and the balance represented IPSAS accounting adjustments. Although nominally reduced in 2015, the Fund had since been built up from CHF 4.5 million in 2010.

The Internal Auditors' report was presented by Mr. D. Pacheco (Portugal) who said that the accounts accurately portrayed the financial situation of the IPU at 31 December 2015 and complied with all current standards and rules. The External Auditor had expressed no reservations on the Financial Statements and had made only one recommendation, which had already been implemented by the Secretariat. The deficit for the year should be addressed in future through more effective measures, which might include increasing income through assessed contributions and voluntary funding. Expenses were carefully controlled and had already been reduced. He had no doubt that the Secretariat would address the financial challenges in an effective manner.

Voluntary funding had continued to increase in 2015, although at a less-than-anticipated rate. In his report on the state of extrabudgetary resources, the IPU Secretary General announced new donations made by Canada and the Federated States of Micronesia in addition to those made by China, Equatorial Guinea, United Arab Emirates, Irish Aid, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PNMCH), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), UNDP, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Worldwide Support for Development (WSD - Japan).

Notwithstanding increased financial risks typical of uncertain times, the Organization's financial standing was strong. It was clear, however, that the IPU's assessed contributions could no longer be reduced each year and that an appropriate balance needed to be struck between core and voluntary funding. The IPU President applauded the initiative of the United Arab Emirates to include in the parliamentary budget a special line earmarked for assistance to the IPU above and beyond the regular statutory contribution, and also welcomed in-kind assistance.

The Governing Council approved the Secretary General's financial administration of the IPU and the financial results for 2015. It also endorsed new guidelines relating to voluntary contributions (see page 75).

3. Financial situation

The Governing Council received an overview of the IPU's financial situation at 31 January 2016 and noted that the financial position was sound. The overall level of expenditure was on track at 101 per cent of the year-to-date budget. Arrears in assessed contributions amounted to CHF 537,000, with 37 Members having overdue accounts. Two Members (Congo and Honduras) were at risk of suspension if no payments were received before the next session in October 2016. Several new sources of voluntary funding were announced, supplementing the generous support provided by existing donors.

4. Cooperation with the United Nations system

The Council took note of the activities undertaken by the IPU in cooperation with the United Nations system since the previous IPU Assembly held in October 2015 (see full list of activities on page 53). The Secretary General drew attention to the far-reaching partnership between the IPU and the United Nations on a wide range of issues. In particular, he referred to the 2016 edition of the annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, which had focused on the world drug problem and had been organized as a contribution to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs. The deliberations of the Parliamentary Hearing had been frank and substantive, resulting in a number of concrete recommendations.

New cooperation had been initiated with the UN Security Council on the implementation of Resolution 1540 relating to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction among non-State actors. The issue was gaining prominence in the context of escalating acts of terrorism and violent extremism. A regional Seminar for African Parliaments had been held in Côte d'Ivoire in February 2016, the first in a series of related activities. Close cooperation was also being pursued in terms of mobilizing parliaments on the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, with a series of regional seminars already having been held or in the pipeline, including the South Asian Speakers' Summit (Dhaka, January 2016), the regional Seminar for Central and Eastern Europe (Bucharest, April 2016) and the regional Seminar for Central and Latin America (Panama, November 2016).

The Secretary General informed the Council of the status of consultations on the new Cooperation Agreement between the IPU and the United Nations, which would reflect progress over the past 20 years and place the institutional relationship between the two organizations on a stronger footing. Based on the IPU submission of April 2015 (further to the decision of the IPU Governing Council) and the response from the United Nations, a new text was currently under consideration, with the expectation that a substantively improved agreement would be ready for signature by the UN and the IPU Secretaries General in the course of 2016. As recommended by the Executive Committee, the Agreement would be accompanied by a letter from the UN Secretary-General underscoring the strategic importance of the UN-IPU partnership, as well as a letter from the IPU Secretary General clarifying that joint activities and initiatives with budget implications for the IPU would be subject to approval by the IPU governing bodies.

5. Implementation of the IPU Strategy for 2012-2017 and preparation of the revised Strategy

The Secretary General briefed the Council on the implementation of the IPU Strategy for 2012-2017, which would conclude in December 2016. As the first IPU Strategy of its kind, it had certainly proved its worth. Among numerous examples of how the IPU was working on practical implementation of the Strategy in 2016, the Secretary General referred to the ongoing preparation of the second edition of the Global Parliamentary Report and mentioned the PaperSmart Initiative approved by the Executive Committee at its session in Lusaka (see page 76).

With reference to Strategic Objective 5 of the current Strategy, which dealt with the building of parliamentary support for international development goals, the IPU President presented the draft Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change. The Plan was designed to accompany the Paris Agreement adopted at the COP21/CMP11 session in Paris in December 2015 and was meant to serve as a policy directive offering a medium- to long-term vision of IPU objectives and priorities in the field of climate change and related areas of sustainable development. Bearing in mind that broad consultations on the preliminary draft of the Action Plan had been carried out during the 133rd IPU Assembly (Geneva, October 2015), as well as at the Parliamentary Meeting on climate change organized by the IPU in Paris in December 2015, the Council approved the Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change (see page 64).

The Secretary General informed the Council of the ongoing work on the preparation of a revised IPU Strategy, a preliminary draft of which had been prepared by the IPU Secretariat and examined by the Executive Committee at its session in Lusaka. The revised Strategy should take stock of developments since 2012, reflect the findings included in the mid-term review carried out in 2014, and be based on the outcomes of the 2015 World Conference of Speakers of Parliament and the UN Summit, which had adopted the SDGs in September 2015. The Council took note of the fact that a preliminary draft of the revised IPU Strategy had been posted on the IPU website and was open for comments and observations by IPU Members. Relevant inputs should be submitted to the IPU Secretariat by 15 July 2016.

6. Recent specialized meetings

The Governing Council took note of the results of the Conference on *Ensuring everyone's right to nationality: The role of parliaments in preventing and ending statelessness* ([http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/198/7\(a\)-r1.pdf](http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/198/7(a)-r1.pdf)); the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the UN Climate Change Conference COP21/CMP11 ([http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/198/7\(b\)-r1.pdf](http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/198/7(b)-r1.pdf)); the Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations ([http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/198/7\(c\)-r1.pdf](http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/198/7(c)-r1.pdf)); the Seminar for African parliaments on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 ([http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/198/7\(d\)-r1.pdf](http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/198/7(d)-r1.pdf)); the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women ([http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/198/7\(e\)-r1.pdf](http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/198/7(e)-r1.pdf)); the South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals ([http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/198/7\(f\)-r1.pdf](http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/198/7(f)-r1.pdf)); and the Third Global IPU Conference of Young Parliamentarians (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/youngMP16.htm>).

7. Reports of plenary bodies and specialized committees

At its sitting on 23 March, the Governing Council took note of the reports on the activities of the Committee on Middle East Questions (see page 56); the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus (see page 18); the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (see page 57); the Gender Partnership Group (see page 60); the Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (see page 62); the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians (see page 16); and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU (see page 63).

The Council also heard the report of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and approved seven decisions submitted by the latter (see pages 85 to 110), noting the reservations expressed by the delegations of Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand concerning the cases in their respective countries.

8. Future inter-parliamentary meetings

Following the recommendation of the Executive Committee, which had been apprised of the positive findings of the on-site mission to Dhaka (Bangladesh) carried out by officials of the IPU Secretariat in January 2016, the Governing Council confirmed the decision to hold the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka from 1 to 5 April 2017.

The Council was reminded of the invitation received from the Parliament of the Russian Federation to host the 137th IPU Assembly in St. Petersburg in September/October 2017. The invitation had been duly considered by the Executive Committee, which authorized the IPU Secretary General to dispatch a technical assessment mission to St. Petersburg not later than the end of May 2016. In so deciding, the Executive Committee was cognisant of the fact that the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation had provided written assurances that all delegates and observers invited by the IPU to the 137th IPU Assembly would be duly granted entry visas by the Russian authorities. In conformity with established practice, the Parliament of the Russian Federation had also undertaken to cover additional costs resulting from holding the second Assembly of the year outside Geneva.

Following an exchange of views, the Council accepted in principle the invitation of the Parliament of the Russian Federation to host the 137th IPU Assembly in St. Petersburg, provided that all logistical requirements were met. Should the findings of the assessment mission conclude that the Russian Federation was in a position to host the Assembly, the authorities would be given the go-ahead to start planning, including preparation of the budget for the event. A decision would be formally taken by the Council at its next session, to be held in Geneva in October 2016.

9. Amendments to the Statutes and Rules

In conformity with the IPU Statutes, the Governing Council approved a series of amendments to the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians (see pages 77). Henceforth, the Meeting would be called the "Forum of Women Parliamentarians", while its Coordinating Committee would be called the "Bureau of Women Parliamentarians".

The Council agreed that relevant editorial changes would also have to be made in the text of the IPU Statutes.

273rd session of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee held its 273rd session in Lusaka on 17, 18 and 22 March 2016. The President of the IPU chaired the meetings. The following members took part in the session: Ms. F. Benbadis, replacing Ms. Z. Drif Bitat (Algeria), who was no longer a parliamentarian, on 22 March; Ms. L.C.R. José replacing Ms. C. Cerqueira (Angola), who was no longer a parliamentarian; Mr. A. Lins (Brazil) on 22 March; Mr. R. del Picchia (France); Mr. K. Jalali (Islamic Republic of Iran); Mr. S. Suzuki (Japan); Mr. D.E. Ethuro (Kenya), Ms. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia) in her capacity as President of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians on 18 and 22 March; Mr. N. Schrijver (Netherlands); Ms. G. Eldegard (Norway); Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation); Mr. A. Jasem Ahmed replacing Mr. R.M. K. Al Shariqi (United Arab Emirates), who was no longer a parliamentarian; Mr. I. Liddell-Grainger (United Kingdom); Mr. D. Vivas (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) on 22 March; and Mr. Tran Van Hang (Viet Nam). Ms. A. Habibou (Niger) was absent.

At its sitting on 17 October, the Executive Committee examined two requests for reaffiliation from the Parliaments of Comoros and Egypt and one request for affiliation from the Parliament of Guyana. It recommended that the Council approve all three requests.

The Executive Committee examined the situation of certain parliaments and made specific recommendations on each to the Governing Council on Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Libya, Madagascar, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Venezuela and Yemen (see relevant section under Governing Council on page 11).

The Executive Committee recommended that a request from the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS) to upgrade its status from Permanent Observer to Associate Member be approved by the Governing Council. It also recommended that observer status be granted to the Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR).

The Executive Committee heard the report of the Sub-Committee on Finance. The Sub-Committee had met on 16 March to prepare and facilitate the Executive Committee's consideration of financial and budgetary matters. It had carefully examined all the financial documents and had been pleased to note that the IPU's accounts were again fully IPSAS-compliant. While net assets had decreased by CHF 494,596 due to a combination of factors such as a difficult investment environment and the continued liability on the IPU closed Pension Fund, the Executive Committee noted that the IPU was in a sound financial position overall.

The Sub-Committee had noted with satisfaction the higher level of voluntary contributions from a broad range of new and existing donors. It looked ahead to preparations for the 2017 budget, taking into account the revised IPU Strategy. Following the series of substantial decreases in IPU Members' assessed contributions over the past five years, the Sub-Committee on Finance believed that this trend could not continue if the IPU were to pursue its mission without jeopardizing its independence. The Sub-Committee examined reports on the Financial Statements, the External Auditor's Report, the Financial Situation and the report on the mobilization of voluntary funding. It recommended that the Executive Committee approve the audit report and the Secretary General's financial administration for 2015, as well as the 2015 Financial Results.

In addition, the Executive Committee adopted an updated set of guidelines relating to voluntary contributions to the IPU that had been carefully reviewed and recommended by the Sub-Committee on Finance. It also examined a proposal to establish a Parliamentary Solidarity Fund to encourage the parliaments of small island developing States (SIDS) to join the IPU and support their participation in statutory IPU meetings. It decided to revert to the matter at its next session in October 2016, when a revised proposal taking into account the comments of members would be produced.

In connection with the implementation of the IPU Strategy for 2012-2017, the Secretary General briefed the Executive Committee on the status of the second edition of the Global Parliamentary Report, which would be launched in the second half of 2016. The report would deal with parliament's power to hold government to account. Surveys and interviews had been conducted at the 134th Assembly.

The Secretary General informed the Committee of the IPU's drive to become greener in line with global concern for the environment and climate change as encapsulated in the IPU's PaperSmart Initiative. An overall reduction of 20-25 per cent of paper had already been implemented, in addition to a number of other measures, such as a print-on-demand service at the current Assembly and an application for mobile devices that would be available starting from the 135th Assembly.

The Executive Committee examined the draft IPU Strategy for 2017-2021. It agreed that the draft should be shared with the geopolitical groups and the wider membership and remain open for written input until the deadline of 15 July 2016. It entrusted the Secretariat with collating contributions and fine-tuning the document for adoption at the 135th Assembly in October.

The members held extensive discussions on the draft Cooperation Agreement with the United Nations. They concluded that overall, the new agreement represented a considerable improvement over the previous one. It did not entail any further cost implications for the IPU and referred to a “strategic partnership” between the two organizations. The members welcomed the idea of a letter of interpretation from the UN Secretary-General to give greater importance to the instrument and/or one from the IPU Secretary General clarifying that joint initiatives with budget implications would be subject to approval by the IPU governing bodies. They recommended that the current draft serve as a basis for further negotiations with the United Nations before its final adoption later in 2016.

In light of the positive mission report produced by the IPU assessment team following its on-site visit to Dhaka, the Executive Committee recommended that the Council approve the holding of the 136th Assembly in Dhaka. The IPU President informed the members that the Russian Parliament had selected the city of St. Petersburg to host the second Assembly of 2017. Taking into account the written visa assurances provided by the Russian Foreign Minister, it recommended that an assessment mission be carried out to St. Petersburg and that the provisional green light be given to the prospective hosts to proceed with preparations based on the findings of the mission.

The Secretary General informed the Executive Committee of staff developments. Ms. S. Varturk, Executive Assistant to the Secretary General, had been promoted from the G5 to the G6 grade and Mr. A. Afouda, Project Officer, had been promoted to the P3 (Programme Officer) grade. As part of the restructuring of the Language Service, Mr. H. Compagnon, a French and Canadian national, had been appointed to the post of Senior French Reviser.

Lastly, the members of the Executive Committee appointed the six Vice-Presidents of the IPU as follows: Mr. D.E. Ethuro (African Group); Mr. A. Jasem Ahmed (Arab Group); Mr. S. Suzuki (Asia-Pacific Group); Mr. K. Kosachev (Eurasia Group); Mr. A. Lins (Group of Latin America and the Caribbean); and Mr. I. Liddell-Grainger (Twelve Plus Group). They also appointed Mr. I. Liddell-Grainger as the Vice-President of the Executive Committee.

Meeting and Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians

The twenty-third Meeting of Women Parliamentarians took place on 19 and 22 March 2016. It brought together 98 delegates from 72 countries and representatives from various international organizations.

Ms. N. Luo (Zambia), Member of Parliament and Minister of Gender and Child Development, presided over the Meeting. She, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia and the IPU President delivered welcome addresses.

Ms. M. Mensah-Williams, President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, summed up the work of the Committee carried out at its 36th session held in Geneva in October 2015, and at the first sitting of the Committee’s 37th session held on the morning of 19 March 2016. The rapporteur of the Gender Partnership Group, Ms. G. Eldegard (Norway), briefed the Meeting on the work of the Group.

As a contribution to the Assembly, participants considered, from a gender perspective, the draft resolution on the agenda of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, *Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and individual rights*. One of the co-Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee, Ms. C. Guittet (France), opened the discussion.

The participants were divided into two groups, which dealt with the issue from two different angles. Group 1 focused on the theme *Protection of the individual rights of women and girls in the context of terrorism and violent extremism: Freedom from violence and discrimination*. Group 2 addressed the question of *Global cooperation to prevent terrorism and violent extremism: Women’s and girls’ empowerment as a means of action*.

The two groups highlighted that terrorism and violent extremism had a strong and differentiated impact on women and girls through the use of sexual violence, abduction and trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of sexual slavery and sexual exploitation.

Participants stressed the need to focus on prevention and devise mechanisms tailored to the needs of women and girl survivors of terrorism. In addition, the discussions highlighted the crucial role of women in preventing radicalization that could lead to terrorism and the recruitment of young people by terrorist groups.

The proposed amendments to the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security were subsequently all incorporated into the resolution.

In order to contribute to the General Debate of the 134th Assembly, women parliamentarians discussed, from a gender perspective, the theme of the General Debate, *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth*.

Participants discussed the particular challenges young women faced in politics, such as gender stereotypes and discriminatory norms that tended to confine women to the private sphere; inequality between men and women in accessing resources and sharing family and professional responsibilities; and the lack of commitment by leaders and political parties to open up to women, especially young women.

Participants highlighted the need to challenge existing practices and stereotypes and to build the confidence and capacity of women and girls to take up leadership roles and engage in politics from an early age.

The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians adopted proposed amendments to its Rules and those of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians and proceeded with the renewal of half of the seats of regional representatives.

The Meeting also elected the new Bureau on the proposal of the Coordinating Committee. Ms. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia) was re-elected as President, and Ms. M. André (France) and Ms. N. Al Kharoosi (Oman) were elected First and Second Vice-Presidents respectively.

Subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council

1. Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

Mr. A.B.M.F.K. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), President, Ms. M. Kiener Nellen (Switzerland), Vice-President, Mr. J.P. Letelier (Chile), Mr. B. Mbuku-Laka (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Mr. B. Fabritius (Germany) took part in the Committee's 150th session, which was held from 18 to 21 March 2016. Ms. F. Koofi (Afghanistan), Mr. A. Alaradi (Bahrain), Mr. A.A. Gueye (Senegal) and Ms. A. Clwyd (United Kingdom) were unable to attend.

During the session, the Committee held 11 hearings with delegations and complainants to enhance its understanding of the cases before it and convey its concerns. It examined 39 cases relating to the situation of 143 parliamentarians in 14 countries. Of those cases, 34 per cent concerned parliamentarians from Africa, 29 per cent parliamentarians from Asia, 16 per cent parliamentarians from the Middle East and North Africa, 15 per cent parliamentarians from the Americas and 6 per cent parliamentarians from Europe. One case concerning a parliamentarian from the South Pacific region was also examined. Thirteen per cent of cases involved women, and nearly 70 per cent opposition members. While freedom of expression was a matter of direct or indirect concern in most cases, the violations most frequently considered by the Committee during the session were, in descending order, lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians, abusive revocation or suspension of the parliamentary mandate, arbitrary arrest and detention, violation of freedom of assembly and association, acts of torture, ill-treatment and other acts of violence inflicted on parliamentarians.

The Committee submitted eight decisions to the Governing Council for adoption concerning the following countries: Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fiji, Guatemala, Malaysia, Mongolia and Thailand.

The Committee also examined cases concerning parliamentarians from other countries. It decided that there was no need to submit decisions to the Governing Council at that point, since its existing concerns remained valid for most of them and it required more extensive information to reach a decision in the others.

2. Committee on Middle East Questions

The Committee held two sittings, on 19 and 22 March. Ms. D. Pascal Allende (Chile), President, Mr. R. Nordqvist (Denmark), Ms. C. Guittet (France), Ms. N. Motsamai (Lesotho), Mr. A.N.M. Al-Ahmad (Palestine) and Mr. F. Mürli (Switzerland) attended both sittings; Mr. R. Munawar (Indonesia) and Mr. N. Shai (Israel) only attended the sitting on 22 March.

The President of the Committee gave an overview of the recent visit to the region by its delegation, which had provided the members with a better understanding of the situation in the region and an enhanced perspective of the reality on the ground. In particular, the delegation had been struck by the positive and constructive atmosphere and the readiness of all parties to work together and create conditions that were conducive to peace. The members of the Committee adopted the report of the visit and made a number of proposals for follow-up.

The Committee received a video message from the co-founder of the Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME), a major international research institute based in Jordan that aimed to bring people from the Middle East together through science.

The Committee adopted the draft terms of reference for the roundtable on water, an event that sought to identify how water technology could best be used to advance peaceful cooperation. It agreed that the roundtable, the first in a series of projects of peace, would be held at a Dead Sea venue in Jordan in late May or early June 2016.

At its second sitting, the general situation in the Middle East and the implications for the work of the Committee were considered. The representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) presented the agency's work in the region, highlighting the important role of parliamentarians in addressing terrorism. He confirmed the commitment of UNODC to strengthen its partnership with the IPU.

In view of the current situation of multiple conflicts in the whole region, members concluded that the expanded mandate of the Committee was justified. In response to a comment from the IPU President, the Committee reiterated its commitment to promoting parliamentary diplomacy within and outside the region as an instrument for building trust.

3. Group of Facilitators for Cyprus

The Group of Facilitators for Cyprus met on 20 March 2016. The meeting was attended by one Facilitator, Mr. P. Van Den Driessche (Belgium), two members of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus and four representatives of the Turkish-Cypriot political parties.

The parties appreciated the opportunity to engage in continued dialogue and expressed resolute support for a solution that would benefit all Cypriots, in particular the next generation. They expressed strong support for the current talks, which they hoped would soon lead to a lasting and viable solution for the unification of Cyprus based on a bizonal, bicommunal federation and political equality, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and the values and principles of the European Union.

4. Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

The Committee met on 20 March 2016. The meeting was chaired by its President, Mr. S. Owais (Jordan). Representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat also took part.

The Committee discussed the plight of the 4.7 million Syrian refugees. It also received information about the global refugee situation, which accounted for 15.1 million refugees and 10 million internally displaced persons, and heard that funding for support to refugees and host countries remained challenging and insufficient.

The Committee highlighted the importance of monitoring the situation in and related to Syria and other areas of the world. It drew attention to the need to focus on the root causes of insecurity and reasons why people were compelled to flee their countries, and reiterated the importance of raising awareness

of the plight of refugees and of addressing misconceptions and stereotypes. The Committee agreed to carry out an on-site mission to Greece and/or Lebanon to examine the situation of refugees and their needs, as well as those of the host countries.

The Committee was briefed on the outcome document of the Conference on *Ensuring everyone's right to nationality: The role of parliaments in preventing and ending statelessness*, co-organized by the Parliament of South Africa, the IPU and UNHCR, and took note of four recommendations. Members agreed to continue to raise awareness of statelessness, take action in their own countries and encourage action in others. Progress would be reported at the Committee's next session in October 2016 in Geneva.

The ICRC briefed the Committee on recent initiatives and outcomes of recent meetings. The Committee invited parliaments to note the four resolutions adopted at the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The Committee discussed the World Humanitarian Summit to be held in May 2016 in Turkey and agreed that it was important for the IPU to take part in that event. The parliamentary community should be mobilized to encourage States to make ambitious commitments at the Summit, whose outcome should be discussed at the 135th IPU Assembly.

5. Gender Partnership Group

The Gender Partnership Group met on 18 and 22 March 2016. The Group comprised Mr. D.E. Ethuro (Kenya), Ms. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia), Mr. Tran Van Hang (Viet Nam) and Ms. G. Eldegard (Norway). Ms. Eldegard was elected Chair of the Group.

The Group compared the composition of the delegations present at the 134th IPU Assembly with that of previous statutory meetings. As at 22 March, 190 of the 634 delegates (29.9%) at the Assembly were women (see page 61). That figure was 2.6 percentage points lower than the equivalent figure recorded in Geneva (October 2015) and 1.9 percentage points higher than the equivalent figure at the Hanoi Assembly (March 2015). The Group expressed its wish to see the proportion of women at IPU Assemblies increase further.

Of the 126 parliamentary delegations present, 120 were composed of at least two delegates. Of those, 19 were composed exclusively of men (15.8%). The all-male delegations were from the parliaments of the following States: Albania, Andorra, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Haiti, Kuwait, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Qatar, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Serbia, Somalia and South Sudan. Six delegations were subject to sanctions at the Assembly for being represented exclusively by men three or more times in a row: Haiti, Malta, Mauritius, Micronesia, Qatar and Somalia.

The Group continued its review of the Statutes and Rules of the IPU to ensure that they enshrined a harmonized and consistent standard of gender equality. In that respect, it noted differences in the requirements relating to the participation of women in IPU bodies. It was noted that the minimum requirement for women's participation in the Executive Committee – 20 per cent – was the lowest within IPU committees and working groups. The Group decided to recommend that that minimum be raised to 30 per cent. It also decided to study mechanisms to ensure that the responsibility to achieve that target was shared among the various geopolitical groups that were part of the Executive Committee.

The Group conducted its regular examination of the situation of parliaments with no women members. On 22 March, the Group held a dialogue with the delegation of the Federated States of Micronesia. In view of the elections to be held in March 2017, the Group engaged in a dialogue with Micronesia to gain a better understanding of the challenges faced by women and discuss possible strategies for achieving progress.

The Group welcomed the commitment expressed by the delegation of Micronesia in support of change. It encouraged the delegation to reflect on strategies for enhancing women's representation in parliament and reiterated the IPU's willingness to provide support where possible.

6. Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

The Advisory Group met on 19 March; seven out of 10 members were present. Representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis also attended. The Group elected its new President, Mr. F. Ndugulile (United Republic of Tanzania).

The Advisory Group discussed recent progress, as well as future areas of engagement, strategic priorities and opportunities. It agreed to consider revising its mandate so as to continue to provide strong support to the IPU's work on health. The Group reaffirmed its vision for health, namely that no one should be left behind and that everyone everywhere should have access to quality services without fear of harm or discrimination.

Its priority would be to advocate for strengthened and evidence-based legislation to reduce barriers to better health; enhanced oversight of the implementation of legislation, particularly with respect to the most vulnerable groups; and resource mobilization. The Group would seek to strengthen the commitment of all parliamentarians to promote improved health, including with respect to marginalized populations and services that were sometimes politically sensitive. It would work to encourage members of parliament to engage communities and citizens in efforts, in particular to seek an end to harmful and discriminatory practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation. The Advisory Group would also prioritize supporting research on legislation to obtain a better understanding of successful and less successful measures, and to ensure that interventions in countries were evidence-based.

The Advisory Group decided to review the 2012 IPU resolution on *Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children*. It would propose possible ways of aligning the text with the SDGs and the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health.

7. Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

The Forum met on 20 March 2016. It was chaired by Ms. M. Dziva (Zimbabwe), acting President, in her capacity as the youngest member of the Board to be present at the 134th Assembly.

The Forum was attended by 60 participants, of whom 37 per cent were women. The average age of the participants was 37.4 years.

Two new representatives were elected to the Board of the Forum: Mr. S.S. Alremeithi (United Arab Emirates) for the Arab Group, to replace Mr. F. Al-Tenajji, who was no longer a member of parliament; and Mr. A.U. Damirbek (Kyrgyzstan) for the Eurasia Group. Two Board seats remained vacant, both for women members, from the Twelve Plus and Eurasia Groups respectively.

The deliberations focused on the theme of the General Debate of the 134th Assembly *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth*. The Forum welcomed the theme, which had been chosen at an important time for parliaments as well as for young parliamentarians. For the members of the Forum, rejuvenating democracy was about increasing the number of young members in parliaments and about better involving young people in democratic processes and political affairs.

As only 1.9 per cent of members of parliament across the world were aged under 30, the key steps to increase youth participation were identified as: setting up statutory quotas for young people, lowering the age of eligibility for parliamentary office and limiting the number of terms that members of parliament could serve. Parliaments needed to communicate with young people in the places where they were already present, such as on social media and in universities. Politicians had to act as role models by being authentic and honest towards young citizens and by opening the way for other young people. Youth councils, youth parliaments and youth organizations should galvanize more interaction and cooperation between parliamentarians and young people.

The Forum agreed to enhance its action on youth participation by strengthening partnerships with international and regional institutions. That action would include carrying out awareness-raising campaigns and capacity-building activities at the national level, taking the lead in the definition of youth participation targets and further monitoring the level of progress towards greater youth representation in parliament.

Increasing youth participation in the IPU's work was also on the Forum's agenda. The Forum decided to prepare a proposal on how to ensure greater participation of young members of parliament in IPU delegations. That proposal would be submitted to the governing bodies for consideration.

Participants had been informed about the revised IPU Strategy for 2017–2021, and had welcomed the inclusion of youth empowerment among its objectives. It confirmed the IPU's place as a leader on the issue of young people in politics. The Forum recommended that youth empowerment be a stand-alone objective in the revised Strategy. Too often, the issue of youth was associated with other themes, whereas it should be considered as an independent area of political work.

Other events

1. Meeting of the Presidents of the Geopolitical Groups

On the morning of 19 March, the IPU President met with the Presidents of the Geopolitical Groups to discuss the implementation of IPU reform and outstanding issues relating to the work of the IPU.

The IPU President informed the Group of the discussions that had already taken place in the Executive Committee on the revised IPU Strategy. A draft of the revised Strategy was then presented in detail by the IPU Secretary General. The draft under consideration was based on the current IPU Strategy, entitled *Better Parliaments, Stronger Democracies*. It took stock of developments since 2012 and the mid-term review of 2014, as well as the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament and of the 2015 UN Summit that had adopted the SDGs. The Executive Committee had considered that the preliminary draft was a very good basis for the revised Strategy: it was clear and concise and focused on priority areas of work. The Presidents of the Geopolitical Groups expressed their appreciation and shared their own suggestions and thoughts. It was agreed that the draft Strategy would be circulated to all IPU Members, with an invitation to submit any suggested input by 15 July, either directly to the Secretariat, or to the respective Groups, which would then submit consolidated input, based on the responses they had received. A revised text would be prepared by the IPU Secretariat, with a view to adopting the final version at the 135th Assembly in October 2016.

The Presidents of the Geopolitical Groups also considered the issue of the distribution of the posts of Presidents of the IPU Standing Committees in light of the various criteria that had been identified at the previous meeting in October 2015. Those criteria were: rotation and gender balance, equitable distribution of IPU leadership positions among the broader IPU membership, attested experience, support from the parliament of which the candidate was a member, ability to work in one of the official languages of the IPU, and a certain national and international prominence. Further to consultations, it was agreed that the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security would be chaired by the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade would be chaired by the Asia-Pacific Group, and the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights would be chaired by the African Group. The Presidents confirmed that they would consult their respective Groups and put forward the best possible candidates.

At the end of their meeting, the Presidents discussed the need to further enhance implementation of IPU decisions and resolutions, in particular those relating to the 2030 Agenda. A draft toolkit for parliamentarians on the SDGs had been prepared for the 134th Assembly. All delegations would be invited to provide their input and suggestions.

2. Panel discussion on *Leading by example on climate change: A lighter carbon footprint for parliaments*

The panel discussion, jointly organized by the IPU and the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), was held on 23 March. It was moderated by Mr. J. Headley (Expert, Parliamentary Facilities Management), and saw the participation of Ms. M.G.M.M. Imenda (Zambia), Mr. R. Plot (Director General, Israeli Knesset), Mr. S. Chayen (Sustainability Coordinator, Israeli Knesset), and Mr. O. Yanar (Finland), as panellists.

The participants examined how parliaments and parliamentarians could significantly improve their institutional and individual environmental performance and set an example of responsible environmental management. The panel discussion noted that in some parliaments, positive experience in enhancing efficiencies with regard to the use of water, electricity and paper in parliament already existed. That resulted in a reduced carbon footprint, a changed organizational culture and long-term financial savings. It would be useful to adopt a strategy that embraced both a bottom-up and a top-down approach for implementation of institutional measures ensuring political will, as well as buy-in from the staff implementing carbon-reduction policies. The importance of making the most of opportunities arising from clear and strong political will from leaders was also emphasized. The panel noted that cross-party caucuses facilitated enhanced parliamentary influence and oversight over environmental policy, including with regard to conservation. Parliamentarians must lead by example through their own activities, such as using public transport, building public awareness and taking action. Parliamentarians were instrumental in bringing the issue of climate change closer to the people, including through social media and in their daily interaction with the public.

3. Side event on *Preventing child and forced marriage: Making the global health goals a reality for girls*

On 20 March, the IPU, WHO and PMNCH jointly organized a side event to discuss what measures parliaments could take to operationalize the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, specifically in relation to the health of teenagers and child, early and forced marriage. Special attention was paid to the role of parliaments in reviewing legislation and ensuring appropriate enforcement at the country level within a holistic approach to improving the health, education, and socioeconomic status of young women and girls.

Moderated by Dr. I. Askew, Director of the WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research, the panel included Mr. F. Ndugulile (Tanzania), Chair of the IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health; Mr. H. Millat (Bangladesh); Ms. P. Locatelli, (Italy); Ms. M. Tsehiau, UNAIDS Country Director in Zambia; and Ms. N. Simamuna, a Representative of PMNCH.

Ms. N. Luo (Zambia), Minister of Gender and Child Development, outlined what had been done in Zambia to address the issue of child, early and forced marriage. Comments from the floor included perspectives from European countries where, although rates remained low, child, early and forced marriage was practised within certain communities.

The IPU and WHO presented the first findings of their joint study on child, early and forced marriage legislation in 37 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The study analysed how key issues were provided for within different types of legislation, including the minimum age of marriage, the absence of exceptions to the minimum age, mandatory birth and marriage legislation and spousal consent. The study also identified the strengths and weaknesses of different types of legislation.

4. Side event on *Reducing nuclear threats – the role of parliamentarians*

The side event was organized by the IPU and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND). It focused on parliamentary action designed to reverse rising tensions between nuclear powers and to decrease the risks of nuclear weapons being used accidentally, intentionally, by miscalculation or through unauthorized access. It was chaired by Mr. R. Tau (South Africa) and included opening presentations by Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico), Ms. M. Kiener Nellen (Switzerland) and Mr. N. Stott (Institute for Security Studies, South Africa).

Some participants considered that both parliamentarians and the general public should be informed about the major risks of a nuclear catastrophe, and that it might be helpful to organize screenings of the film *The Man Who Saved the World*. Others observed that, with sufficient backing from parliamentarians and civil society, the new diplomatic process underway in Geneva for multilateral nuclear disarmament and the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament in 2017-2018 could result in the next multilateral nuclear disarmament agreement. Parliamentarians should support common security approaches to conflicts between nuclear-armed States, including through the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, as well as by establishing additional zones that were free of nuclear weapons.

5. IPU-UNAIDS field visit by the Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Members of the Advisory Group from Bangladesh, Lesotho, Rwanda, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom participated in the field visit in the morning of 21 March. Lusaka is one of the 13 cities in the world that is fast-tracking access to HIV treatment, with particular emphasis on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV.

The Mayor of Lusaka, Mr. George Nyendaw, accompanied the members to the Chiasa Health Centre, which was partly funded by the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Ms. M. Tsehiau, UNAIDS Country Director, took the group on a tour of the facility. The clinic provided family planning services, prenatal care, including HIV testing, and postnatal care, including male circumcisions. Manuals had also been produced for midwives and community members.

The group then visited the Muhlingile Women's Organization, which helped individuals get tested, obtain drugs and remain on treatment, and worked to reduce stigma and encourage people to support their neighbours and family members.

The final stop on the itinerary was the Civic Centre, where the Mayor stated his personal commitment to the MTCT scale-up programme, which had been run very successfully.

Elections and appointments

1. Executive Committee

The Governing Council elected the following two new members of the Executive Committee:

- Ms. F. Benbadis to complete the term of Ms. Z. Drif Bitat (Algeria), who was no longer an MP, until October 2018.
- Mr. A. Jasem Ahmed to complete the term of Mr. R.M.K. Al Shariqi (United Arab Emirates), who was no longer an MP, until April 2017.

2. Vice-Presidents of the IPU

The Executive Committee elected the following six Vice-Presidents for a one-year term ending in April 2017:

- *African Group*: Mr. D.E. Ethuro (Kenya)
- *Arab Group*: Mr. A. Jasem Ahmed (United Arab Emirates)
- *Asia-Pacific Group*: Mr. S. Suzuki (Japan)
- *Eurasia Group*: Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation)
- *Group of Latin America and the Caribbean*: Mr. A. Lins (Brazil)
- *Twelve Plus Group*: Mr. I. Liddell-Grainger (United Kingdom)

3. Vice-President of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee elected one of the IPU Vice-Presidents, Mr. I. Liddell-Grainger (United Kingdom), as the Vice-President of the Executive Committee for a one-year term ending in April 2017.

4. Sub-Committee on Finance

The Executive Committee appointed:

- Mr. A. Jasem Ahmed to replace Mr. R.M.K. Al Shariqi (United Arab Emirates) for the remainder of the latter's term ending in April 2017.
- Ms. A. Habibou (Niger) for a two-year term ending in March 2018.
- Mr. A. Lins (Brazil) for a two-year term ending in March 2018.

The Sub-Committee elected Mr. R. del Picchia (France) as its Chair.

5. Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

President

Ms. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia)

First Vice-President

Ms. M. André (France)

Second Vice-President

Ms. N. Al Kharoosi (Oman)

African Group

- Ms. F. Adedoyin (Nigeria) was elected as a member for a four year term ending in March 2020.
- Ms. A. Woldeamayrat (Ethiopia) was elected as a member for a four-year term ending in March 2020.

Arab Group

- Ms. H. Al Helaisi (Saudi Arabia) was elected as a member for a four-year term ending in March 2020.

- Ms. M. Azer Abdelmalak (Egypt) was elected as a member for a four-year term ending in March 2020.
- Ms. N. Al Kharoosi (Oman) was elected as a member for a two-year term ending in March 2018.

Asia-Pacific Group

- Ms. S. Sirivejchapun (Thailand) was elected as a member for a four-year term ending in March 2020.

Eurasia Group

- Ms. L. Gumerova (Russian Federation) was elected as a member for a four-year term ending in March 2020.

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean

- Ms. E. Mendoza Fernández (Plurinational State of Bolivia) was elected as a member for a four-year term ending in March 2020.

Twelve Plus Group

- Ms. S. Atallahjan (Canada) was elected as a member for a four-year term ending in March 2020.
- Ms. P. Locatelli (Italy) was elected as a member for a four-year term ending in March 2020.

6. Gender Partnership Group

Mr. D.E. Ethuro (Kenya), Ms. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia), Mr. Tran Van Hang (Viet Nam) and Ms. G. Eldegard (Norway) were appointed to the Group. Ms. Eldegard was elected Chair of the Group.

7. Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The Governing Council elected Ms. D. Solorzano (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) as a Committee member for a five-year term ending in April 2021.

8. Committee on Middle East Questions

The Governing Council elected Ms. C. Guittet (France) as a titular member for a four-year term ending in March 2020 and Mr. M. Al Muhrizi (United Arab Emirates) as a substitute member for a four-year term also ending in March 2020.

9. Group of Facilitators for Cyprus

The Governing Council elected Mr. J. De Matos Rosa (Portugal) as a Facilitator.

10. Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

The Governing Council elected Mr. A.C. Duval (Mauritius) for a four-year term ending in March 2020 and Ms. M. Haj Hassan Osman (Sudan) for a four-year term ending in March 2020.

11. Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

Mr. S.S. Alremeithi was elected for the Arab Group, to complete the term of Mr. F. Al-Tenajji (United Arab Emirates), who was no longer a member of parliament for a one-year term ending in March 2017 and Mr. A.U. Damirbek (Kyrgyzstan) was elected for the Eurasia Group for a one-year term ending in March 2017.

12. Bureaux of the Standing Committees

Following elections that took place in the Standing Committees, the following members were elected:

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

- Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico) was elected as President for a two-year term ending in March 2018, eligible for another two-year term as a member.
- Mr. D. Pacheco (Portugal) was elected as Vice-President for a two-year term ending in March 2018.
- Ms. B. Amongi (Uganda) was elected for a two-year term ending in March 2018, eligible for another two-year term.
- Mr. K. Albakkar (Jordan) was elected for a two-year term ending in March 2018, eligible for another two-year term.

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

- Ms. S. Tioulong (Cambodia) was elected President for a two-year term ending in March 2018.
- Mr. A. Cissé (Mali) was elected as Vice-President for a two-year term ending in March 2018.
- Ms. J. Mhlanga (Zimbabwe) was elected for a two-year term ending in March 2018, eligible for another two-year term.
- Mr. A. Hussain Adam (Sudan) was elected for a two-year term ending in March 2018, eligible for another two-year term.
- Ms. Z. Greceanii (Republic of Moldova) was elected for a two-year term ending in March 2018, eligible for another two-year term.
- Ms. L. Gumerova (Russian Federation) was elected for a two-year term ending in March 2018, eligible for another two-year term.
- Ms. T. Lindberg (Sweden) was elected for a two-year term ending in March 2018, eligible for another two-year term.

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

- Mr. P. Wangchuk (Bhutan) was elected for a two-year term ending in March 2018, eligible for another two-year term.
- Mr. J. Lacão (Portugal) was elected for a two-year term ending in March 2018, eligible for another two-year term.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

- Mr. A.-F.I. Al-Mansour (Sudan) was elected Vice-President for a two-year term ending in March 2018.
- Ms. A.R. Albasti (United Arab Emirates) was elected for a two-year term ending in March 2018, eligible for another two-year term.
- Mr. A. Romanovich (Russian Federation) was elected for a two-year term ending in March 2018, eligible for another two-year term.

13. Rapporteurs to the 135th and 136th Assemblies

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security appointed Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation) and Ms. K. Koutra-Koukouma (Cyprus) as co-Rapporteurs for the subject item *The role of parliament in the prevention of external interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States*.

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade appointed Ms. G. Cuevas (Mexico) and Ms. P. Mahajan (India) as co-Rapporteurs for the subject item *Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development*.

The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights appointed Ms. S. Lines (Australia, replacing Ms. L. Markus) and Mr. M. Kilonzo Junior (Kenya) as co-Rapporteurs for the subject item *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective*.

Media and communications

Eight press releases were issued and four press conferences were held in relation to the Third IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians and the 134th Assembly. About 180 media personnel were accredited to the Assembly, predominantly from Zambian media.

Initial media monitoring on the Assembly from limited open-source content on websites showed that a minimum of about 2,500 online articles and blogs mentioning IPU and the 134th Assembly were posted in a two-week period with 2,000 of them on websites, Facebook and blogs that have more than 4.1 billion unique visitors combined. The articles covered the various themes of the Assembly, as well as bilaterals between delegations.

Media interviews were carried out by parliamentarians, the IPU President and Secretary General, the IPU Director of Communications and special guests with broadcasters, newspapers and agencies such as Associated Press, Associated Press Television News, Reuters, Channel Africa, UN Radio, South Africa Broadcasting Corporation, Voice of America and many Zambian media outlets.

A live Twitter feed using the #IPU134 hashtag was displayed intermittently in the plenary and some meeting rooms. Social media monitoring between 23 February and 24 March showed there were 7,061 posts using #IPU134 by nearly 2,800 users. These tweets reached nearly 29.5 million accounts and left 85.6 million impressions. Not only were the figures the highest ever recorded at IPU, they also represented a very significant increase in social media outreach from previous Assemblies. The geographic spread of tweets was extensive, with only a few countries in Africa, Central Asia and Latin America not engaged.

IPU was mentioned on Twitter through its handle @IPUparliament in 3,850 tweets in the same time frame, reaching more than 20 million accounts, with the potential of reaching 46.1 million more accounts. Again, these figures were the highest ever recorded for an event. The Twitter activity around the 134th Assembly and the Young MPs Conference led to about 500 new followers to the @IPUparliament account in two weeks.

The #youngMPs twitter handle also performed well. There were more than 1,500 posts by 456 users, reaching nearly 2.8 million accounts and leaving 6.7 million impressions.

Flickr was again used to distribute photos of the Assembly to media and the participants.

During the Assembly, three new publications were launched – *The Annual Report 2015, Women in Parliament 2015: The year in perspective* and *Youth participation in national parliaments 2016*.

Membership of the IPU¹

Members (170)

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Associate Members (11)

Andean Parliament, Arab Parliament, Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), European Parliament, Interparliamentary Assembly of member nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO), Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

¹ At the closure of the 134th Assembly

Agenda, resolutions and other texts of the 134th Assembly

1. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 134th Assembly
2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General Debate on *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth*
4. Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and individual rights
(*Standing Committee on Peace and International Security*)
5. Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity
(*Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade*)
6. Reports of the Standing Committees
7. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade for the 136th Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs
8. Giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status: One of the major challenges of the humanitarian crisis in the 21st century

Outcome Document of the General Debate on *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth*

*Endorsed by the 134th IPU Assembly
(Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

As an international organization, as national parliaments and as individual representatives of the people, we are driven by our belief in democracy.

We understand democracy as both a set of values and as a system of institutions that puts those values into practice. At the most fundamental level, we believe that everyone has the right to be heard, and that all voices carry equal weight. Our primary responsibility as parliamentarians is to serve the people and deliver policies and legislation that address their needs and interests.

We understand that there is no single model of democracy. A country's institutions evolve from its particular history, culture and traditions. Equally, we unequivocally reaffirm that the principles of democracy are universal. We reaffirm the core values of democratic parliaments. Those values are about:

- seeking to be representative of the country's social and political diversity;
- being open to our citizens and transparent in the conduct of parliamentary business;
- ensuring accessibility and accountability to our citizens; and
- performing our work effectively.

We underline that the practices of democracy must constantly change with the times, so that they reflect the societies that nourish them.

Today, our democracies face key challenges. We are challenged to restore and strengthen public confidence in the institutions of democracy. The perception of disconnect, corruption and inauthenticity undermines our institutions and the image of politics and politicians. Voter turnout in elections has tended to decrease over time, especially among young people. Barriers to democracy, and the tendency for any part of the population to turn their backs on our institutions, are a concern to us all. Statistically, young people are least likely to vote and are increasingly disengaged from formal political processes.

This lack of engagement cannot be attributed to apathy. Young people use many different platforms to engage in democracy, such as social media, youth organizations and in some cases, protests and unrest. Rather, political institutions have too often failed to open up to young people. Our institutions have not kept up with the fast-changing and increasingly interconnected world into which young people have been born.

More than half of the world today is under 30 years of age. As today's young people become tomorrow's adult population, we run the risk of failing to address their growing disengagement. Over time, that failure threatens to undermine the very legitimacy of our governments and parliaments. We must act now.

We note with satisfaction that in the 2030 Agenda, governments recognize that peace, justice and strong institutions are essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We have long held that belief. We can and must do more to ensure that parliaments live up to the core values that we have defined for ourselves. We believe that the 2030 Agenda cannot be achieved without inclusively harnessing the power of all parts of our societies. Harnessing the dynamism of young people is a top priority as they will be the prime beneficiaries of the Agenda's results. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development now provides an opportunity to renew momentum for strengthening the institutions of democracy.

Our response to rising extremism must be based on more democracy, not less. Radicalism can only be defeated if we give young people the opportunities they deserve. We must stand firm in our beliefs and not be tempted into undemocratic responses to the challenges facing us.

It is time to take action for a democratic renaissance. And we can start rejuvenating democracy today by giving voice to youth. Citizens of all ages have a role to play in rejuvenating democracy. However, young people are now the majority of the world population. They are critical thinkers, change makers and bearers of fresh ideas. That is why we are convinced that young people are ideally placed to be the key agents of a democratic renaissance. We therefore need to make sure that we give voice to youth and that we are ready and able to hear that voice.

Increasing youth participation is a key element of giving voice to youth which will rejuvenate democracy. We are concerned that only 1.9 per cent of the world's parliamentarians are aged under 30. We recognize that we have a duty to create an enabling environment that guarantees young people's participation and galvanizes their leadership. We acknowledge that no decision about youth should be taken without youth. That is why we pledge to increase youth representation in parliament. And that is why we need to link up with youth, both formally and informally. We must reach out to them where they are - on social media platforms, in schools, universities and public spaces. We reaffirm with renewed vigour our commitment to implement the 2010 IPU resolution *Youth participation in the democratic process* by enhancing young people's connection to the world of politics and facilitating their political representation.

Rejuvenating democracy is about ensuring that everyone is included. Our governments must be based on the will of the people and be accountable to the people for their actions. Healthy institutions of democracy must ensure that power is not concentrated in the hands of the few. Inclusion is necessary not only to ensure that the rights of people are continuously respected and fulfilled, but also to bring all people closer to political institutions and ensure that we make better policy.

Through inclusive parliaments, citizens can shape their democracies according to their own circumstances and better contribute to the make-up of the societies of today and tomorrow.

Rejuvenating democracy is also about adapting our parliaments to our time. It is about rethinking their processes, so as to respond to evolving social and individual needs. By being gender-sensitive in their composition, structures and work, our parliaments can adapt better to the growing evolution of men and women's roles in society and in the family. Gender-sensitive parliaments have great benefits, in particular to young women and men parliamentarians, as no one should sacrifice their personal life to engage in politics today.

Rejuvenating democracy is about modernizing the functioning of our institutions. Opening up to new technologies makes it possible to usher in a new era of democracy 2.0. The exponential increase in the use of modern technologies and social media, and in access to information has changed the ways that citizens participate. Our parliaments must open up to the online world in their structures and mechanisms, so as to adapt to the expanded space and time of modern communication, interaction and participation.

Rejuvenating democracy is about changing the way politics is done. Citizens rightly expect the highest levels of integrity from us and our institutions. Change will be driven by clean politics, transparent procedures, and anti-corruption policies and laws. They should be implemented by all of us. By honestly fulfilling our mandate as representatives of the people, we will contribute to rebuilding the weakened trust in us and our institutions. We will make our democracies better and stronger if we keep our electoral promises, remain accessible to our citizens, act responsibly, transparently and accountably, and inspire young people through our words and actions.

Rejuvenating democracy is also about delivering for a better future. The voices of future generations need to be included in our political debates and processes. We need to ensure that our posterity has a better quality of life than we do, and can live a healthy life on a healthy planet. We therefore need to make sure that our deliberations and decisions embody the needs of tomorrow's generations.

At this 134th Assembly, many innovative proposals for strengthening democracy and engaging young people have been put forward. We encourage governments and parliaments to experiment with new ideas that could make the institutions of democracy more responsive to the people.

We pledge to rejuvenate democracy including by taking action to:

- Renew and refresh the profile of people who hold political office, so that parliaments and other decision-making bodies are more inclusive of society's social and political diversity;

- Enhance youth representation in our parliaments, including by considering the adoption of quotas, revisiting age restrictions to run for political office, building party political support, entrusting young MPs with leadership positions, and promoting young MPs as role models for other young people; particular attention should be given to the specific situation and needs of young women;
- Reform our parliamentary processes and internal policies to make them more sensitive to the needs of younger women and men, including by considering the adoption of anti-harassment policies, reforming parental leave, and implementing proxy voting;
- Promote the use of modern technologies to enhance transparency and accountability; use innovations such as online petitions, virtual hearings and submissions, and online interactions and voting to bring citizens, and young people in particular, into the parliamentary process;
- Establish specialized parliamentary committees on youth and networks of young parliamentarians to consolidate youth perspectives into parliamentary work; open up parliamentary deliberations to young people, including through regular parliamentary hearings and consultations, as well as through linking up with youth parliaments and councils, student associations and youth NGOs;
- Ensure that political empowerment is promoted in school curricula through civic education and practical initiatives, such as mock parliaments, mock voting and political debating; invest in youth parliaments and councils for young people below the voting age and enhance youth participation in politics by lowering the voting age;
- Include young representatives in international fora and deliberations, in particular at the IPU, by systematically including at least one young man or young woman member in delegations;
- Use the International Day of Democracy (15 September) to celebrate the successes of democracy and face up to its challenges.

It is our duty to rejuvenate democracy to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations. In doing so, we must harness the creativity, energy and enthusiasm of our citizens, particularly of young men and women. We cannot wait for another generation to act. The time to act is now.

Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and human rights

*Resolution adopted by consensus by the 134th IPU Assembly
(Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

The 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly and Security Council on combating terrorism, in particular Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2129 (2013), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015), 2253 (2015), General Assembly resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006 on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and follow-up resolutions, and the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, as well as IPU resolutions adopted by the 116th Assembly (Nusa Dua, Bali, 2007), the 122nd Assembly (Bangkok, 2010) and the 132nd Assembly (Hanoi, 2015), all of which underscore the need for cooperation in the fight against terrorism,

Also recalling the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council on women, peace and security, in particular resolution 2242 (2015) which recognizes “the differential impact on the human rights of women and girls of terrorism and violent extremism” and the use of sexual and gender-based violence as “a tactic of terrorism”, and calls for the increased participation of women in multilateral processes on counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism,

Reaffirming that its primary objective is to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and *underscoring* that any counter-terrorism measures taken must be in accordance with that Charter and international law, international human rights law, and in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as applicable,

Noting the absence of a universally agreed definition of terrorism at the international level,

Considering nevertheless that this gap should not be an obstacle to concerted action by the international community to combat terrorist activities and organizations, provided that States have at their disposal national laws containing clear and precise definitions of terrorist acts according to the definitions in international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols as adopted by the UN Security Council, and punish those acts,

Also considering that international cooperation in combating terrorism in keeping with UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions can only be effective if parliaments adopt a series of legislative and financial measures aimed at preventing terrorism and criminalizing terrorist acts and their glorification, as well as terrorist propaganda,

Convinced that those measures should also make it possible to prosecute the perpetrators, accomplices and supporters of terrorist acts, prevent the movement of terrorist fighters, monitor the activities of persons suspected of terrorist activity and cut off the means of financing terrorist organizations,

Concerned by the possible nexus between terrorism, transnational organized crime and illicit activities such as document fraud, drug trafficking, arms trafficking, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, the pillage of historical sites, the sale of antiquities, the looting of natural resources and money laundering,

Also concerned by the growing use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), including the Internet and social networks by terrorist organizations to exchange information, plan and carry out attacks and spread their propaganda,

* The delegation of India expressed a reservation on the expression “right to a private life”.

Underscoring the need to take measures aimed at eliminating conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism, some of which take root within society, such as poverty, scarce basic services, gender discrimination, social inequality and exclusion, and a sense of injustice, which provide terrorist organizations with a fertile breeding ground for recruitment, especially among young people,

Also underscoring that the status of children must always, and in particular in the context of terrorism, be taken into account and considered from the angle of the development and the rights of the child, as set forth in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Considering that the implementation of social and educational measures likely to prevent the emergence of extremist behaviours that can lead individuals towards terrorism – or put an end to such behaviours – is indispensable in the fight against terrorism,

Concerned that individuals who have been listed globally as terrorists by the United Nations are not being prosecuted by UN Member States and are still moving around freely,

1. *Calls upon* individuals to refrain from using religion, religious heritage and culture to commit terrorist acts, as this fuels religious and cultural prejudice;
2. *Calls* for the establishment of cultural dialogue aimed at preventing extremism and combating terrorism, which would seek to reach a meeting of minds between different cultures based on intellectual and cultural insights, and to ensure coordinated global efforts to combat extremism and terrorism;
3. *Also calls* for the spreading of tolerance and moderation and *underscores* the need for legislative and executive actions to combat hatred, against ethnic and religious minorities in all countries, and to provide the necessary protection for places of worship, as well as due respect for holy books and religious symbols;
4. *Emphasizes* the absolute need for enhanced international cooperation and the promotion of inter-parliamentary information exchange, in order to effectively tackle terrorism and dismantle terrorist networks;
5. *Urges* parliaments to adopt measures to prevent the commission, planning and funding of any kind of terrorist act against any State, irrespective of motives;
6. *Calls* for the funding of education programmes, as well as community and civil society initiatives – in particular those benefiting youth and women’s empowerment – that are designed to avoid the development of extremist behaviour that could lead individuals to take part in terrorist acts and that are also designed to help build a culture of tolerance and peace in our societies;
7. *Also calls* for the funding of what are known as counter-narrative campaigns, designed to counteract the propaganda of terrorist organizations, including on social networks and the Internet as well as in schools and religious institutions;
8. *Strongly urges* parliaments to require providers to be responsible in their approach to the largest communication platform of our era, to facilitate notice-and-takedown procedures, to pass on patently criminal content to law enforcement agencies when that is appropriate, and after an examination of the legal issues based on the criteria of the rule of law, thus allowing effective criminal prosecution;
9. *Also urges* parliaments to exchange good practices, and legal and technical knowledge, both pre-emptively in order to fight against the radicalization of certain individuals within the population, and reactively to ensure that individuals are de-radicalized;
10. *Recommends* that criminal legislation relating to terrorist acts or activities are clearly and precisely drafted to ensure that legal proceedings and international coordination in the fight against terrorism are effective, and *highlights* that fundamental rights and the principles of fair criminal proceedings on the basis of due process must be guaranteed, particularly with regard to freedom of movement, freedom of conscience and religion, protection from arbitrary arrest, the right to a private life and the right to be presumed innocent;

11. *Also recommends* that criminal legislation regarding terrorist acts be applied to minors in a manner which accounts for their capacity for rehabilitation, particularly with respect to sentencing;
12. *Requests* parliaments to criminalize not only acts of terrorism, as defined by UN Security Council resolutions, but also the planning both to commit such acts and to assist or facilitate, whether by act or omission, the commission of such acts, and also to bring into their legislation an obligation to either prosecute or extradite for prosecution individuals charged with terrorist acts or activities;
13. *Considers* it essential to also criminalize the recruitment and training of terrorists and their supporters as well as the incitement to commit acts of terrorism, particularly through rallies, virtual social networks or more generally through the use of the Internet, while also ensuring that any measures taken are proportional to the threat, taking particular account of any attempts to impair freedom of expression and human rights;
14. *Requests* parliaments to criminalize the intentional development, maintenance or hosting of websites which have been identified as terrorist sites and which, directly or indirectly, intentionally support terrorist activities, as well as to criminalize the intentional downloading of documents or programmes of a terrorist nature with the aim of committing terrorist crimes;
15. *Also requests* parliaments to criminalize the act of travelling abroad, or attempting to do so, in order to commit or assist in committing a terrorist act, to participate in, provide or receive terrorism-related training, to facilitate the movement of terrorist fighters, to recruit terrorist fighters or to train or assist in training terrorists;
16. *Strongly recommends* that legal measures be identified to stop social benefits for individuals who have gone abroad to support or become terrorist fighters;
17. *Requests* parliaments to authorize the competent authorities responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of terrorist offences or serious crimes to collect data about airline passengers before they travel, and to place an obligation on airlines and travel agents to provide, in advance and in electronic format, information about passengers and their travel documentation;
18. *Also requests* parliaments to allow the administrative authorities to confiscate the travel documents of terrorist fighters (by temporarily withdrawing, suspending or confiscating their passports or travel documents, including for minors) or to allow any measure that enables their travel arrangements to be cancelled as a matter of urgency;
19. *Further requests* that parliaments authorize measures for their State's electronic national security system to be connected to I-24/7, the global police communications system, and to the databases of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and allocate the necessary funds to do so;
20. *Calls on* parliaments to review their legislation in order to prevent any financial aid or support from being provided to terrorist fighters and to criminalize the financing of terrorism;
21. *Recommends* in that regard that legal provision be made for the possibility, first, to rapidly freeze assets and bank accounts used or intended to be used by terrorists, their accomplices or supporters; second, to prohibit the transfer or raising of funds which are intended to directly or indirectly assist terrorist fighters, their accomplices or supporters or by terrorist organizations; and third, to facilitate information exchange on financial transactions and movements of funds between States, including through exchange protocols established either by recognized international organizations such as INTERPOL or through bilateral agreements;
22. *Notes* the need to provide States with the financial, human and legal resources to enable relevant authorities to place under surveillance terrorist organizations and persons who might commit or support terrorist acts, in order to bring to justice terrorist fighters, their accomplices or supporters, or to arrest them before they take action;

23. *Calls on* parliaments to promote international cooperation between security forces, intelligence services and customs and immigration authorities, including by centralizing and coordinating information exchange, authorizing the swift ratification of extradition treaties concluded between the States of origin, transit and destination of terrorist fighters, and by monitoring the effectiveness of their implementation on the basis of legally binding agreements relating to compliance with the rule of law and data protection standards, in order to prevent the abuse of immigration and asylum law for the purposes of terrorism;
24. *Requests* parliaments to develop national legislation, supported by appropriate financing, that would allow the victims of terrorist acts to exercise their right to redress against those who have provided financial or logistical support to terrorists, as well as legislation, supported by adequate resources, that would establish a mechanism to assist and support victims, taking into account the specific needs of women and girl victims;
25. *Urges* parliaments to increase their efforts to reduce poverty; to combat discrimination against unemployed people, particularly young unemployed people, in order to ensure access to quality education for boys and girls and to basic services for all; and to combat racism as well as all forms of discrimination, particularly when based on unemployment, gender and social inequality, which provide a fertile breeding ground for the spread of terrorism;
26. *Welcomes* the initiative of the UN Secretary-General, *takes note* of his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, and *encourages* parliaments to ensure that it is successfully implemented, in parallel with efforts made as part of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16;
27. *Urges* parliaments to commit to the empowerment of women as a means of preventing and combating terrorism in all its forms, in particular by securing the full participation of women and youth in decision-making and their economic independence;
28. *Requests* the IPU to promote inter-parliamentary information exchange and cooperation, and to facilitate dialogue among practitioners and parliamentarians, by establishing a forum where parliamentarians and UN counter-terrorism-related bodies could interact, with a view to sharing, at global and regional levels, good practices on confidence-building measures that are conducive to peace, international stability and security, and ensuring women's and young people's full participation in such efforts, with due consideration for the sovereignty of each State.

Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 134th IPU Assembly
(Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

The 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling that several UNESCO Conventions already provide an international legal framework for the protection of heritage,

Also recalling the working paper on "Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity", which highlights the need for further mechanisms to protect this legacy, and which also mentions the nine main challenges referred to below,¹

Armed conflict and terrorism

Noting that, in situations of armed conflict, there is an almost systematic destruction of cultural heritage, whether as collateral damage or intentional destruction,

Recalling that the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (the 1954 Hague Convention) and its two Protocols already provide for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict and are an integral part of international humanitarian law,

Regretting that too few States have ratified those instruments, particularly the Second Protocol, which includes provisions in particular for preventive measures to protect cultural heritage and to enhance that protection,

Strongly condemning all acts of intentional destruction of cultural heritage, and *recalling* that Article 8.2 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court defines such destruction, under certain circumstances, as a war crime, while Article 15 of the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention considers it an offence,

Looting, illicit trafficking and funding terrorism

Recalling that looting and illicit trafficking of cultural items are widespread in countries where there is a rich archaeological heritage and where there is either a weak legal and institutional framework or where these activities are considered a significant source of income, and *emphasizing* the importance of international parliamentary cooperation to combat theft, smuggling and trade in cultural heritage, as well as the funding of terrorism, and the need to enact appropriate laws prohibiting such acts,

Also recalling that United Nations Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), as well as other relevant Security Council and IPU resolutions, establish a direct link between illicit trafficking of cultural items and the funding of terrorism,

Underscoring the need to ensure that there is a mechanism in place to adequately protect underwater cultural heritage against intensive and systematic looting premised on the logic that those who first discover underwater heritage automatically become its owner,

Mass tourism

Convinced that cultural heritage constitutes a unique tourist attraction and that mass tourism can be both promising for economic development and damaging for our heritage,

Emphasizing the need to evaluate cultural heritage assets against sustainable development evaluation standards,

¹ <http://www.ipu.org/conf-f/133/2cmt-DESTEXHE.pdf>

Noting that mass tourism can have adverse impacts on parts of our heritage that are ill-suited to deal with such large numbers of visitors,

Recalling that tourists have a duty to maintain and preserve our common heritage, which should help to create visiting conditions that allow each and every one to respect that heritage and at the same time avoid using it inappropriately or untowardly,

Also recalling that the necessary balance between encouraging tourism and preserving cultural heritage can only be struck by ensuring the development of "sustainable tourism and conservation practices,"

Population growth and urbanization

Noting that population growth and concentration lead to urbanization policies that are likely to seriously damage heritage and its surrounding environment,

Considering that spatial planning must be integrated into a sustainable and balanced development approach that reconciles socioeconomic development, in particular regarding tourism, and the conservation and protection of historical and natural heritage,

Enhancing awareness

Recognizing the importance of raising awareness from an early age among individuals and communities about the importance of preserving our cultural heritage, so as to trigger a process of assuming responsibility for prevention of deterioration and destruction that jeopardize our cultural heritage,

Also recognizing the value of developing scientific research and postgraduate studies in the field of urban heritage, so as to train national cadres and create a comprehensive database of urban heritage, which would include all related data and studies, along with efforts to educate the public and raise awareness of urban heritage, its importance and need for its development,

Conservation of heritage

Insisting on the imperative that must prevail in the choice of restoration techniques and materials used, as well as the qualification and training of persons entrusted with undertaking such work, so as to prevent any restoration company from causing irreversible damage to heritage or works of art,

Considering the positive role that the conservation and restoration of heritage can play in fostering nations' understanding of their history and identity and, through recognition of humanity's common heritage, mutual respect among peoples and recognition of the diversity and equal dignity of the world's cultures,

Globalization

Also considering that one of the effects of globalization is the standardization and homogenization of all facets of heritage, which particularly threatens the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage,

Climate change and pollution

Recognizing that climate change, natural disasters and man-made disasters can have a negative impact on tangible, intangible and underwater cultural heritage,

Considering that strengthening efforts deployed to protect and conserve humanity's natural and cultural heritage is part of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, to be achieved by 2030 (SDGs target 11.4) adopted by the Member States of the United Nations (UN) in 2015, and *expressing the wish* to implement what was agreed at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris,

Nominations for the World Heritage List

Recalling that greater protection can be provided to items declared and listed as national heritage, and that States should be made aware of that fact,

Underscoring the need to protect heritage as a whole, whether listed or not, against common threats,

Recognizing the importance of cultural heritage as a strategic resource to ensure sustainable development, and *convinced* that efforts aimed at safeguarding cultural heritage should be fully integrated into development plans, policies and programmes at all levels,

Welcoming the work already done in response to those threats by UNESCO as well as by all international, national and local bodies and organizations as well as natural and legal persons working in the field of cultural heritage,

Recalling that, in order to avoid duplication, all the legal instruments relating to heritage should constitute a coherent whole rather than merely exist in parallel,

Considering that parliaments have important powers to lead, legislate and oversee government action in order to enable the recommendations below to be effectively implemented,

Armed conflict and terrorism

1. *Urges* States to become party to and incorporate into their national legal framework the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols as applicable;
2. *Encourages* parliaments to adopt comprehensive regulations that provide for measures to protect cultural property in cases of armed conflict, disaster or emergency situation;
3. *Requests* parliaments to ensure that all parties to armed conflict respect cultural property in accordance with the rules of international humanitarian law and the legal framework established by conventions governing cultural matters that they have ratified;
4. *Recommends* the establishment of mechanisms needed to systematically prosecute the perpetrators of acts of destruction of cultural heritage and *also recommends* that intentional acts of destruction should be defined as a war crime, according to Article 8.2 of the Rome Statute and in line with United Nations Security Council resolution 2199, and similarly the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, as applicable;
5. *Emphasizes* in this regard the importance of developing a framework for cooperation with international criminal justice bodies and of facilitating the development of inter-State judicial cooperation procedures, which is essential for the prosecution of the perpetrators of the most serious crimes;
6. *Encourages* parliaments to advocate for greater efforts to be made in training staff at museums and other institutions in which cultural heritage is kept so that, in times of war, natural disaster or major emergency, they are able to determine the priorities and modalities for protecting and keeping it safe as a matter of urgency;
7. *Invites* parliaments to legislate in order to anticipate situations of potential armed conflict, by establishing an inventory and an emergency plan for the storage or evacuation of tangible heritage and for the protection of built heritage;
8. *Proposes* to include the protection of cultural and historical sites in multilateral peacekeeping operations;

Looting, illicit trafficking and funding terrorism

9. *Calls upon* States to become party to the 1970 UNESCO Convention², the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001), and the UNIDROIT Convention (1995) and to transpose the provisions of these instruments into the national legal framework;³
10. *Recommends* that parliaments ensure that States keep an inventory of all significant heritage in the broadest sense, to record the entire inventory on microfiche and/or CD-ROM and to keep several secure copies;

² Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970).

³ UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995).

11. *Also recommends* that, on the basis of the inventory, that conditions be created to ensure that regular studies are conducted and that complaints of looting can be followed up;
12. *Invites* parliaments to establish a national body to combat trafficking in cultural property whose mandate would extend to looting within countries' national borders and on the high seas;
13. *Requests* each parliament to ensure that records are established for professional art dealers, which should indicate the origin of the items they purchase;
14. *Strongly urges* parliaments to recommend that all necessary efforts, including the establishment of special police and customs units be made to combat the theft of and suppress illicit trafficking in cultural property;
15. *Encourages* parliaments to support all bilateral or international cooperation initiatives in collaboration with Interpol and the World Customs Organization;
16. *Also encourages* parliaments to advocate for the effective implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 2199, which establishes linkages between the illicit trafficking of cultural objects and the funding of terrorism;
17. *Invites* parliaments to adopt legislation or administrative mechanisms consistent with the practical tool entitled "Basic Actions Concerning Cultural Objects Being Offered for Sale Over the Internet" developed by UNESCO with Interpol and the International Council of Museums;
18. *Recommends* that parliaments, especially those of importing countries, advocate for a monitoring system to be established, which would relate to the movement of cultural property and which would include a system of export certificates, without which it would constitute a criminal offence for cultural property to be moved out of a country of origin or moved into another country;
19. *Also recommends* that urgent measures be adopted to prohibit imports when the heritage of a State Party is seriously threatened by intense looting of archaeological and ethnological materials;

Mass tourism

20. *Invites* parliaments to take appropriate action in order to establish a system to regulate the numbers of tourists, using a daily visitor quota with time slots, after first having determined the cultural heritage to which such a system should apply;
21. *Encourages* the more systematic establishment of protection perimeters to prevent permanent or long-term damage to the country's physical, cultural and environmental heritage;
22. *Requests* parliaments to consider the possibility of limiting the number of people visiting national museums and the most frequently visited sites, so as to both protect heritage and maintain the quality of visits;
23. *Invites* parliaments to engage in consultations with museum authorities and other authorities in charge of cultural heritage in order to ensure that they are not only pursuing economic goals, but also doing all they can to ensure the quality of visits, the protection of objects and awareness of the cultural heritage on exhibit;
24. *Also invites* parliaments to establish policy and guidelines for sustainable tourism development, which will also look into the issue of tourist guards/police among others and, in particular, language training;

Population growth and urbanization

25. *Further invites* parliaments to insist that impact assessments be systematically carried out in their respective countries wherever projects alter the environment that surrounds cultural heritage and to adopt legislative provisions aimed at establishing a protective perimeter around the most striking monuments and the creation of protected zones in neighbourhoods that stand out for their historical or esthetical character;

26. *Endeavours* to ensure respect for and enhanced recognition of cultural heritage in society, in respective educational systems and policies;

Enhancing awareness

27. *Strongly recommends* that awareness-raising efforts be made in relation to the respect for and protection of heritage in school curricula and military training programmes;
28. *Invites* parliaments to promote public awareness-raising events, such as heritage days, and to encourage all public and private initiatives that form part of the International Day for Monuments and Sites dedicated to World Heritage on 18 April;
29. *Encourages* parliaments to draft and adopt national information plans on historical heritage, including training and information activities;
30. *Invites* parliaments to promote citizen participation in the process of managing heritage in line with the strategy of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (the Faro Convention);
31. *Requests* that parliaments insist on the implementation of preventive and protective measures when heritage is in danger in parallel with measures aimed at restoring and/or repairing of cultural property;
32. *Invites* parliaments to ensure that background information is made available to citizens on tangible, intangible and underwater cultural heritage located in their countries;

Conservation of heritage

33. *Encourages* parliaments to do everything possible to foster and organize high-level training on the conservation and protection of cultural heritage in all its forms, and facilitate capacity-building activities for their safeguarding;
34. *Also encourages* parliaments to promote the regular maintenance of the heritage of their country;
35. *Further encourages* States to adopt legislation to protect historical monuments and the most striking buildings from a historical or architectural point of view; such legislation would make their demolition, displacement or restoration subject to authorization by the authorities responsible for the protection of historical monuments; it would also ensure that the overall management of the work is entrusted to certified professionals based on their skills; it would authorize the administrative authority to oblige the property owner to undertake the necessary work in order to conserve the monument, in exchange for the State's participation in the restoration costs;
36. *Calls upon* parliaments to foster the development of training for technicians and experts in the conservation and restoration of tangible and intangible assets that make up cultural heritage, as well as to promote programmes, scholarships and international forums for the exchange of knowledge and discussion on topical issues related to cultural heritage;
37. *Also calls upon* parliaments to ensure that, where large-scale restoration projects occur, they receive automatic support from networks of national and international experts, including governmental organizations, educational and research institutions, and the private sector, so that an assessment can be made of best techniques to be used;

Climate change and pollution

38. *Recommends* that consultations with experts take place, including with specialists in cultural heritage and traditional construction techniques, in order to plan for climate change and its effects on cultural heritage, as well as to include traditional knowledge and techniques in conservation plans;
39. *Also recommends* that parliaments do the needful to ensure that consultations on the impact of climate change on cultural property also take into account external factors linked to lifestyle, such as pollution, which compound the primary impacts and thus cannot be disregarded;
40. *Encourages* the establishment both of national listed heritage assessments and of potential climate-change-related risks in order to take measures to limit them;

41. *Calls for* enhanced awareness-raising activities all over the world so as to prevent harmful environmental practices in order to mitigate the effects of climate change and protect heritage;

Nominations for world heritage lists

42. *Encourages* efforts to raise the awareness of the authorities of each country about the potential interests of registering elements of cultural heritage located inside their borders on the UNESCO World Heritage List and therefore include, in their Tentative Lists, the names of those properties which they consider to be cultural and/or natural heritage of outstanding universal value;
43. *Urges* parliaments to do everything possible to assess whether, in accordance with the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention, certain segments of heritage should benefit from higher levels of protection;
44. *Strongly urges* States to become party to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) as well as the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) to fully complement the set of the international standard-setting instruments dedicated to the safeguarding of cultural heritage and diversity;
45. *Recommends* that parliaments encourage their governments to support other countries by providing them, where necessary, with assistance in training in and awareness-raising about the importance of conserving cultural property, what steps to take with regard to UNESCO and exchange of good practices related to the protection of cultural property;
46. *Also recommends* that parliaments remind their governments that registering cultural property on the UNESCO List should be motivated by objective criteria and be limited to those assets that present a real and universal heritage interest, without any concern for the geographical balance of properties between countries or continents or political considerations, without which this List would risk becoming endless and would lose its initial purpose.

Giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status:
one of the major challenges of the humanitarian crisis in the 21st century

Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of France and
Uruguay for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes	938	Total of affirmative and negative votes ...	995
Negative votes	57	Two-thirds majority	663
Abstentions	206		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan			<i>Absent</i>	Haiti	11			Poland	15		
Albania			<i>Absent</i>	Hungary	13			Portugal	13		
Algeria			15	Iceland	10			Qatar	4		4
Andorra	10			India	10			Republic of Korea			<i>Absent</i>
Angola	12			Indonesia			<i>Absent</i>	Romania	10		
Australia	14			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Russian Federation	20		
Austria	12			Israel	12			Rwanda			12
Bahrain	10			Italy	17			San Marino			<i>Absent</i>
Bangladesh	20			Japan	20			Sao Tome and Principe	5	5	
Belarus			<i>Absent</i>	Jordan	12			Saudi Arabia			14
Belgium	13			Kenya			15	Senegal	10		
Benin	10			Kuwait	7		4	Serbia	10		
Bhutan			<i>Absent</i>	Latvia	11			Seychelles			10
Bolivia	12			Lebanon			<i>Absent</i>	Sierra Leone			<i>Absent</i>
Botswana			11	Lesotho	11			Singapore			<i>Absent</i>
Brazil			<i>Absent</i>	Libya			10	Slovenia			<i>Absent</i>
Bulgaria			<i>Absent</i>	Liechtenstein			<i>Absent</i>	South Africa			17
Burkina Faso			<i>Absent</i>	Lithuania	11			Spain	15		
Burundi			<i>Absent</i>	Luxembourg			<i>Absent</i>	Sri Lanka			<i>Absent</i>
Cambodia	13			Madagascar	14			Sudan			15
Cameroon	13			Malawi			<i>Absent</i>	Suriname	10		
Canada	15			Malaysia			<i>Absent</i>	Sweden	12		
Chile	13			Maldives			<i>Absent</i>	Switzerland	12		
China	23			Mali	13			Thailand	18		
Comoros	10			Malta			<i>Absent</i>	Timor-Leste	11		
Côte d'Ivoire	13			Mauritania			10	Togo			<i>Absent</i>
Cuba	13			Mauritius	9			Tunisia			<i>Absent</i>
Cyprus	10			Mexico	20			Turkey	11		7
Czech Republic	13			Micronesia (Fed. States of)			<i>Absent</i>	Uganda			13
DR of the Congo	10		7	Monaco			<i>Absent</i>	Ukraine			<i>Absent</i>
DPR of Korea			<i>Absent</i>	Morocco	15			United Arab Emirates	11		
Denmark	12			Mozambique			13	United Kingdom	18		
Egypt	15	4		Namibia	11			United Republic of Tanzania	10		
Equatorial Guinea	10			Nepal			<i>Absent</i>	Uruguay	11		
Estonia	11			Netherlands	13			Venezuela	15		
Ethiopia			19	New Zealand	11			Viet Nam	19		
Fiji			<i>Absent</i>	Nigeria			10	Zambia			13
Finland	12			Norway			<i>Absent</i>	Zimbabwe			13
France	18			Oman			11				
Gabon			11	Pakistan	21						
Germany	19			Palestine	11						
Ghana			<i>Absent</i>	Panama	10						
Guinea			<i>Absent</i>								
Guinea-Bissau	11										

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

Human trafficking: An act of terrorism, a grave violation of human rights and human dignity, and a threat to regional and international peace and security

Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Sudan for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes.....	761	Total of affirmative and negative votes	941
Negative votes	180	Two-thirds majority	627
Abstentions	260		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan			<i>Absent</i>	Haiti	11			Poland			15
Albania			<i>Absent</i>	Hungary	7		6	Portugal	13		
Algeria	15			Iceland		10		Qatar	8		
Andorra			10	India	10			Republic of Korea		<i>Absent</i>	
Angola	12			Indonesia			<i>Absent</i>	Romania		10	
Australia			14	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Russian Federation			20
Austria	12			Israel		12		Rwanda	12		
Bahrain	10			Italy			17	San Marino		<i>Absent</i>	
Bangladesh	20			Japan	20			Sao Tome and Principe	5	5	
Belarus		<i>Absent</i>		Jordan	12			Saudi Arabia	14		
Belgium		13		Kenya	15			Senegal	10		
Benin			10	Kuwait	11			Serbia			10
Bhutan		<i>Absent</i>		Latvia			11	Seychelles	10		
Bolivia	12			Lebanon			<i>Absent</i>	Sierra Leone		<i>Absent</i>	
Botswana	11			Lesotho			11	Singapore		<i>Absent</i>	
Brazil		<i>Absent</i>		Libya	10			Slovenia		<i>Absent</i>	
Bulgaria		<i>Absent</i>		Liechtenstein			<i>Absent</i>	South Africa	17		
Burkina Faso		<i>Absent</i>		Lithuania			11	Spain	5		10
Burundi		<i>Absent</i>		Luxembourg			<i>Absent</i>	Sri Lanka		<i>Absent</i>	
Cambodia	13			Madagascar	14			Sudan	15		
Cameroon	13			Malawi			<i>Absent</i>	Suriname	10		
Canada		15		Malaysia			<i>Absent</i>	Sweden		12	
Chile			13	Maldives			<i>Absent</i>	Switzerland	3		9
China	18		5	Mali	13			Thailand	18		
Comoros	10			Malta			<i>Absent</i>	Timor-Leste	11		
Côte d'Ivoire	13			Mauritania	10			Togo		<i>Absent</i>	
Cuba	13			Mauritius	9			Tunisia		<i>Absent</i>	
Cyprus	5		5	Mexico	8	12		Turkey	7		11
Czech Republic	13			Micronesia (Fed. States of)			<i>Absent</i>	Uganda	13		
DR of the Congo	7		10	Monaco			<i>Absent</i>	Ukraine		<i>Absent</i>	
DPR of Korea		<i>Absent</i>		Morocco	15			United Arab Emirates	11		
Denmark		12		Mozambique	13			United Kingdom		18	
Egypt	19			Namibia	11			United Republic of Tanzania	10		
Equatorial Guinea	10			Nepal			<i>Absent</i>	Uruguay		11	
Estonia			11	Netherlands		13		Venezuela	15		
Ethiopia	19			New Zealand	3		8	Viet Nam	19		
Fiji		<i>Absent</i>		Nigeria	10			Zambia	13		
Finland		18		Norway			<i>Absent</i>	Zimbabwe	13		
France				Oman	11						
Gabon	11			Pakistan			21				
Germany		19		Palestine	11						
Ghana		<i>Absent</i>		Panama			10				
Guinea		<i>Absent</i>									
Guinea-Bissau	11										

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

Giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status: One of the major challenges of the humanitarian crisis in the 21st century

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 134th IPU Assembly
(Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

The 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Alarmed by the existence, according to UNICEF estimates, of more than 230 million children under five years of age without a legal identity because they were not registered at birth and by the fact that one in every seven children registered in the world does not have a birth certificate attesting to his/her legal identity,

Observing that without a civil status, these children are severely hampered throughout their lives (unable to go to school, vote, marry, receive welfare benefits, inherit, etc.) and fall victim to trafficking (illegal adoption, prostitution and criminal networks), which is further exacerbated in situations of humanitarian crisis,

Considering that having a reliable, comprehensive and lasting civil registry is a necessary prerequisite for drawing up credible electoral lists and, as a consequence, the legitimacy of electoral processes,

Concerned about the “black holes” in statistics caused by the absence of registration of these children, which disrupts the planning and the management of public services for children,

Recalling different provisions and instruments under international law, in particular:

- Article 24, paragraph 2, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights adopted on 16 December 1966 by the UN General Assembly,
- Article 7, paragraph 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20 November 1989,
- Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which the IPU fully supports, including target 16.9, “By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration”,
- the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Protocols, especially the Fourth Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,
- the 1977 Protocol relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts,

Also alarmed by the tremendous impact of humanitarian crises, particularly in situations of conflict, on the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children,

Convinced of the absolute need to fully meet the needs of those children in terms of assistance and protection through the mandates of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations,

1. *Calls on* parliaments to request their governments to put in place measures to inform parents of the need to register children at birth and remove all barriers to the registration of children in registry offices regardless of nationality, race, ethnicity, language, religion or social status;
2. *Requests* parliaments to adopt laws to ensure the issuance of birth certificates free of charge or, at least, to reduce to a minimum the cost of birth registration;
3. *Calls for* registry offices to be set up as close as possible to homes by distributing them throughout the country with as a wide coverage as possible;
4. *Recommends* that parliaments take measures to allow women to register births;
5. *Calls for* support for the implementation of applications for mobile devices that allow authorized persons (e.g. midwives, village leaders and school principals) to register births;

6. *Invites* parliaments to promote campaigns on regularizing the status of children without a legal identity through roving public hearings that move from village to village;
7. *Calls on* parliaments ensure adequate funding for civil registry, including moving towards the digitization of registration where possible;
8. *Urges* in particular parties to armed conflict to respect schools and hospitals and to provide unrestricted access for humanitarian assistance and to give humanitarian personnel all the facilities required to carry out their work;
9. *Calls on* governments and parties to conflict to meet their obligations in conformity with international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, in particular the obligations set forth in the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005;
10. *Strongly urges* the IPU to commit to monitoring developments on this issue.

Presidential Statement

*Endorsed by the 134th IPU Assembly
(Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

We, Member Parliaments of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, utterly condemn the terrorist attack today in Brussels. Once again, many innocent lives have been lost and scores of people have been wounded. This wanton act of violence is unconscionable.

What has happened today is another brutal assault on democracy and core human values. We convey our deepest condolences to the families of the victims, and express our solidarity with the people and authorities of Belgium.

We are gravely concerned by the escalation in acts of violent extremism which have killed more than 140,000 people since 2001.

We call for urgent action to counter the growing number of people being drawn towards such cowardly and despicable acts and for all political leaders to work together to find effective means of safeguarding the lives of their citizens.

IPU also urges all community leaders to clearly and actively engage with their followers in order to promote peace, democratic engagement, and respect for human life. Recourse to all forms of violence must be condemned outright. Alternative and peaceful means of political expression must be found.

We at IPU pledge to do our utmost to better engage all groups in society in our social and political processes. We will work to make our parliaments more representative so that all voices and concerns are addressed in the one institution where political differences can be resolved through discussion and negotiation.

Tomorrow, this Assembly will be adopting a resolution on the need to enhance global cooperation on terrorism in order to counter the threat to democracy and individual rights. The attack today has underlined in the most tragic way possible the critical relevance and timeliness of this resolution. We must all make sure that after leaving Lusaka, we take resolute and effective action to counter this global menace by following up on commitments made here.

Report of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

*Noted by the 134th IPU Assembly
(Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

Summary of the debate *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective.*

On Tuesday, 21 March 2016, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights held an interactive debate on the freedom of women to participate in political processes and how genuine partnership between women and men could contribute to that objective. The debate was a preparatory step towards a resolution that would be adopted on that subject at the 135th IPU Assembly. The debate was launched by an introductory presentation on the latest findings of the IPU on women's participation in parliaments, followed by a question and answer session with five panellists. The panellists were the resolution's co-Rapporteurs, Ms. S. Lines (Australia) and Mr. M. Kilonzo Junior (Kenya), as well as Mr. N. Erskine-Smith (Canada), Ms. M. Azer Abdelmalak (Egypt) and Mr. J. Zangpo (Bhutan). The session was chaired by Ms. A. King (New Zealand), Acting President of the Committee.

Participants addressed the obstacles to women's participation in politics and called for a paradigm shift within parliaments, political parties and society at large. Discriminatory stereotypes and patriarchal culture were still a predominant feature in many countries. Social norms and traditional roles were frequently invoked to suggest that politics was not a good career option for women. Political parties were concerned about whether seats were winnable with women candidates, and male politicians worried about losing access to elected positions. Reconciling family and political life was difficult and could make a political career less attractive to women. Women in politics were often the target of abuse on social media.

Quotas had had a determining effect in increasing the number of women in parliament in many countries. Quotas were only effective when they were adequately designed and implemented, and when there were strong incentives for political parties to respect them. Quotas and laws alone could not change a culture. Yet the increased presence of women in parliament was providing more role models for young women interested in politics and was contributing to changing mentalities.

Participants proposed many avenues for expanding women's political participation. Education was a vital first step to challenging stereotypes and discrimination. Parliaments and parties were increasingly aiming for parity between men and women in elected positions. Political parties needed to commit to gender equality, including in leadership roles. Parties also needed to demonstrate those commitments through their actions. There were signs that young party members and political activists were more favourable to gender equality; they needed to be encouraged and mentored.

Financial support for women candidates and for women parliamentarians to travel with their young children would lower some of the barriers to a political career. Cross-party agreement that women should be members of parliamentary committees in all policy areas, including "hard" areas such as defence and public finances, would help to change the current imbalance.

Penalties must be imposed against all attempts to intimidate women, whether in parliament, in their constituency or on social media. Parliaments needed to ensure a zero-tolerance culture towards violence, harassment and the intimidation of women by, for example, adopting a code of conduct or a policy on sexual harassment. Women parliamentarians were already starting to speak out about instances of harassment, and should be encouraged to do so without fear or shame.

For many years, the onus to work for gender equality had been placed on women alone. "Women should vote for women" was an often-repeated phrase. Young women had been told that they could do anything, but without any accompanying support from men. Gradually, the conceptual framework was shifting towards a genuine partnership between men and women that favoured gender equality. Men had to come forward and be vocal advocates for gender equality as well as women. It was noted that this was still a new idea in many countries, but it was happening, and it was the future.

Report on the interactive debate *Open Parliaments: Building an association on accountability*

At its sitting on 22 March, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights held a debate entitled *Open Parliaments: Building an association on accountability*. Acting President Ms. A. King (New Zealand) was in the chair. The panellists were Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico), Mr. N. Evans (United Kingdom), Mr. C. Chauvel (United Nations Development Programme) and Mr. D. Swislow (National Democratic Institute). A further 23 parliamentarians spoke from the floor.

Participants unanimously made the case for greater openness in parliament. The first Global Parliamentary Report had noted that: public trust in parliament was low; citizens expected parliamentarians to account for their actions more regularly than ever before; and because of their very nature, parliaments were resilient and able to adapt to society's needs.

It was observed that openness was no longer a choice, it was a necessity. Greater openness helped to break down perceived barriers between parliaments and citizens. Openness and transparency were the preconditions for citizens to be able to hold parliaments and their representatives to account for their actions. They helped to make parliament more effective overall, by facilitating greater public participation in parliament's work.

Participants shared numerous examples of initiatives to promote greater openness. Mexico had adopted a law on transparency that was prepared in partnership with a range of stakeholders, including those from civil society. In the United Kingdom, e-petitions automatically triggered a debate in parliament on the subject of the petition once a certain number of signatures had been reached. The Government Assurances Committee in Ghana broadcast its public hearings. It received submissions via text message and WhatsApp, so that the public could be involved in holding the Government to account for the promises it had made.

The movement towards greater openness was supported and catalysed by organizations such as the Open Government Partnership (OGP). OGP had been launched in 2011 to provide an international platform for domestic reformers committed to making their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens. Since then, OGP had grown from 8 to 69 participating countries. In all of those countries, government and civil society were working together to develop and implement ambitious open government reforms through action plans.

A Legislative Openness Working Group had been created within OGP in 2013 by parliaments and civil society organizations. Lessons learned included: the need for parliament and government to have separate action plans; for the commitment to openness to come not just from individual parliamentarians, but from the institution of parliament; and for that commitment to have ongoing multiparty support. The space for parliaments within OGP remained limited, but there were signs of change as more parliaments adopted action plans.

There had been an increasing number of examples of successful collaboration between parliaments and civil society organizations in terms of making parliamentary data available in reusable formats. Those examples built on the momentum of the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness. A network of civil society organizations had made the Declaration in 2012, and it had since been endorsed by parliaments including those of Serbia and Peru.

It was noted that openness in parliament was necessary but not sufficient. Citizens would not become interested in talking to parliament simply because additional communications channels were available. Greater openness encouraged more trust, but was not enough on its own. Parliaments needed to work on a range of fronts to strengthen relations with citizens and build trust. A free press and other core elements of democratic society were also vital.

Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 134th IPU Assembly
(Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

The President of the Committee, Mr. A. Avsan (Sweden) opened the session and welcomed the participants.

Referring to the first two items on the agenda, Mr. Avsan invited the Committee to adopt the report of the previous session at the 133rd Assembly and elect three new members to the Bureau following nominations received by the geopolitical groups: Mr. A. Romanovich (Russian Federation), Ms. A.R. Albasti (United Arab Emirates), and Mr. A.-F.I. Al-Mansour (Sudan).

Mr. Romanovich, having had to return to his country, was introduced by Mr. K. Kosachev as a former member of the Bureau, also from the Russian Federation. Ms. Albasti talked about her work with women and domestic violence and her interest in international affairs, particularly peacekeeping. Mr. Al-Mansour was absent.

Mr. Avsan proceeded to introduce the two sessions on the programme, which he chaired.

Session 1: **Interactive debate on the new election process for the UN Secretary-General.**

Ms. G. Ortiz, President of the Legislative Studies Committee (Senate of Mexico), and member of the Bureau of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs; **Mr. K. Kosachev**, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Council of the Federation, Russian Federation; and **Ms. Y. Terlingen**, Representative of the *1 for 7 Billion Campaign*

This session provided members with an opportunity to comment on a new appointment process for the selection of the United Nations Secretary-General as outlined in a Secretariat background note. The note traced the history of the appointment process over 70 years of the United Nations and showed that most of the applicable rules were derived by practice and not from the UN Charter. It was possible for member States to change these rules by a resolution of the General Assembly.

As part of the ongoing reform process of the United Nations, a large number of Member States had demanded that the appointment of the UN Secretary General be more transparent and inclusive of the entire membership, through the General Assembly, and not confined to the 15-member Security Council where five permanent members (the P5 with veto power) held most of the decision-making authority. A more democratic selection process would help ensure the impartiality of the office-holder and empower him or her to act as a true representative of the “peoples” referred to in the UN Charter.

The background note proposed seven questions for discussion on the qualifications for the post of UN Secretary-General, the renewability of the term of office, and considerations for gender balance and regional representation. Most importantly, the note invited reflection on the key question of whether the General Assembly should hold a real election and not be limited to approving the one candidate recommended by the Security Council. That would require the Security Council to submit to the General Assembly more than one name.

Elaborating further, Ms. Terlingen gave a detailed presentation of a new appointment process the General Assembly had adopted in resolution 69/321 of September 2015. Mr. Kosachev and Ms. Ortiz acted as respondents to her presentation. The following 15 delegations contributed comments and questions: Bangladesh, Bahrain, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Canada, Cuba, Kenya, Morocco, the Netherlands, Portugal, Uganda, South Africa, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates and Zambia.

Ms. Terlingen noted that while the new appointment process represented a step in the right direction, it did not go far enough. She noted two important innovations: first, government-nominated candidates must submit their curricula vitae to the President of the General Assembly and all must be posted online; second, the General Assembly can convene informal public hearings with the candidates. The new process also more explicitly than ever invites woman candidates to come forward and stresses the need to consider gender diversity in that process, which so far had always led to the appointment of men only.

From the standpoint of the *1 for 7 Billion campaign* (an umbrella organization of 750 civil society organizations), the new rules should limit the mandate of the UN Secretary-General to a single non-renewable term (possibly extended to seven years) in order to enhance the political independence of the UN Secretary-General from the P5 and other key members whose support he/she needed to be re-elected. Most of all, the rules should allow the General Assembly to hold a vote on a slate of at least two nominations from the Security Council.

Ms. Terlingen said, “the UN Secretary General represents the conscience of the world and plays an important role in helping Member States rise above their national interests”. It is important that his or her selection be as inclusive and representative as possible. To that end, she suggested that parliamentarians should play a role in the process by: holding debates on the qualifications required for the post; by helping identify qualified candidates; by scrutinizing the eventual nominations; by proposing questions to be asked of the candidates at the hearings of the General Assembly; by insisting that the office-holder be free to appoint his/her cabinet based on merit alone (i.e., not as patronage appointments); by advocating a single term of office; and by insisting that the Security Council submit more than one recommendation to the General Assembly, thus making the process more democratic.

In his response, Mr. Kosachev cautioned that any changes to the current system must be carefully considered bearing in mind the long-term consequences. The new process for 2016, which would lead to the appointment of a new UN Secretary-General effective January 2017, was not the only window of opportunity to effect change. For Mr. Kosachev, the mandate of the UN Secretary-General as defined in the Charter was primarily of an administrative nature, as head of the Secretariat. The UN Secretary-General's political functions were very limited and subject to guidance from the General Assembly. From that standpoint, it was not aberrant for the UN Secretary-General to be dependent on the membership instead of being empowered to act alone.

According to Mr. Kosachev, regional rotation of the post of UN Secretary-General was welcome so that the whole world would eventually be represented in the position. Gender balance was also welcome, provided the best qualified person was chosen in the end. On the question of term limits, Mr. Kosachev disagreed with the argument that a single term was more empowering than two consecutive terms. On the key question of whether the P5 members of the Security Council should retain the power to veto a nomination, Mr. Kosachev argued that the system was much more constraining than people thought because it forced the P5, and indeed the whole membership of the Security Council, to reach a consensus.

Ms. Ortiz remarked on the discussion from the gender perspective of the selection process. She welcomed the fact that more Member States were supportive of women candidates and hoped that would lead to a woman being elected for the first time in 2016. While noting that the Security Council's control of the process was undemocratic, Ms. Ortiz expressed concern that the gender composition of the Security Council was another issue that needed to be addressed. If the Council was to remain in control of the selection, and if the selection was equally open to women and men, then the Council itself needed to be reformed to ensure gender parity. A male-dominated Council was less likely to select a woman candidate than one in which women were equally represented.

In the ensuing debate, a few participants expressed general satisfaction with the status quo while most expressed support for further democratization of the appointment process. Those interventions clearly signalled that the selection process must become transparent and involve all Member States, not just those who sat on the Security Council, and reinforced the view that the UN Secretary-General was accountable to the more representative General Assembly. Two interventions went further, recommending that the process should end with a vote by the General Assembly on more than one candidate, as was the practice at the IPU. Three participants supported the idea of a single, non-renewable term.

The participants expressed strong support for women candidates to be considered. One intervention specifically suggested that the focus should not be limited to inviting women candidates but more importantly to making sure a woman was actually elected. Several UN agencies had been or were being led by women and there was no question as to the availability of highly qualified women to take on the top job of UN Secretary-General. To ensure gender balance in the outcome of the selection process, one delegate suggested that a gender “rotation” should be instituted so that the post would alternate between a man and a woman (i.e. admitting only male candidates or only female candidates on each occasion).

Participants underscored that parliaments should have a role in the selection process. Several speakers expressed support for many of Ms. Terlingen's recommendations, particularly the idea that parliaments should hold debates on their governments' nominees and even submit their own proposals. A specific suggestion was that parliaments needed to support the UN Secretary-General in his/her efforts to implement key administrative reforms that were required to strengthen the United Nations.

Concluding the debate, participants asked the IPU to transmit the following three questions to all candidates in the running in 2016:

1. Agenda 2030 will be successful if members of parliament are involved in the development of their national action plans, in monitoring implementation, and in aligning budgets and legislation to the agenda. As UNSG, will you advocate among Member States for parliamentary engagement in the implementation of the new 2030 Agenda and attendant SDGs?
2. Numerous UN General Assembly resolutions and UN Secretary-General reports recommend a strong relationship between the United Nations and national parliaments, as well as with the IPU. As UN Secretary-General, what specific actions would you take to strengthen these relationships at the global and national levels to more effectively serve the people?
3. As representatives of the people, parliamentarians want to ensure a more democratic UN Secretary-General selection process. How do you think parliamentarians, through the IPU, as the world organization of parliaments, can have a role in this process?

Session 2: Briefing on the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

Mr. L. Borbely, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chamber of Deputies of Romania; **Ms. P. Torsney**, Head of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations; **Mr. A. Motter**, Senior Adviser for Economic and Social Affairs, IPU; **Mr. C. Chauvel**, Parliamentary Adviser, Democratic Governance Group, UNDP.

Following a decision of the Bureau at the October 2015 session, the overarching aim of the session was to provide the Committee with a structure enabling it to work as the IPU's main body for a regular review of SDGs implementation over the next 15 years. The panel presented various approaches and elaborated on concrete suggestions.

After presenting an overview of various new or established review mechanisms, Mr. Motter described the entry points for parliaments to engage in SDGs implementation at three levels: national, regional and global. At the national level, a key role for parliaments was to deepen national ownership of the goals and to ensure a national plan to localize the goals were firmly in place. Key to the accountability role of parliaments was the fact that their governments presented to them an annual report of progress on the implementation of the plan. At the global level, he noted that parliaments had an opportunity to contribute to the work of the new High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development that would be the main UN hub for an annual global progress review. Among other things, parliaments should participate in national voluntary reviews and join their national delegations to HLPF sessions.

An initial step all parliaments could take towards implementation was to adopt a motion or a resolution on the SDGs. Mr. Avsan introduced a template resolution the IPU has prepared. He noted that the parliaments of Mali and Trinidad and Tobago had already adopted resolutions and encouraged all delegations to follow suit. He reported that several members of the Bureau, such as those from Canada, Sudan, Morocco, Norway and Sweden, had pledged to table a resolution in 2016.

The IPU was gearing up to help parliaments institutionalize the SDGs. Ms. Torsney provided one illustration in the form of a self-assessment toolkit the IPU intended to publish in May. She invited interested members to provide feedback to her on the toolkit, which was still in draft form. The delegations of Mali and Lesotho expressed an interest in being part of that exercise.

Exploring the regional level of implementation and review, Mr. Borbely highlighted the case of the Eastern European region. His parliament was host to a regional conference on the SDGs in 2015 and would again convene a meeting in April 2016. He noted how all SDG-related processes presented an opportunity to strengthen parliaments' accountability role. In his parliament, the sub-committee on sustainable development would play a key role in mainstreaming the SDGs in the committee system, thus strengthening policy coherence. He urged the IPU to integrate the SDGs in its new five-year strategy and to focus on assisting parliaments in institutionalizing the SDGs in their day-to-day work.

For his part, Mr. Chauvel outlined how the United Nations was gearing up to help parliaments implement the SDGs at the country level. He recalled that the 2030 Agenda rested on open, inclusive and participatory reporting, a people-centred approach, and evidence-based support. He noted that there was strong agreement in principle that parliaments were a key stakeholder in implementation, along with civil society and other actors, but that would not translate automatically into action to engage or support the parliaments. Proactive efforts would be required. Some of the impetus would need to come from citizens themselves. The United Nations would retool the existing My World survey facility so that people could use it to provide feedback on government policy and services directly to their members of parliament.

The following delegations participated in the debate: Cuba, France, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, South Africa, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe. They elaborated on some of the points made by the panel with further ideas and suggestions. Several comments in particular pointed to the need to strengthen parliaments to allow them to play a strong role in implementation. Two interventions elaborated on the role of the national sustainable development plan as the centrepiece of implementation in each country.

It was agreed that each spring session of the Committee on United Nations Affairs would henceforth be utilized to perform three basic tasks: to take stock of global progress on the SDGs (UN reports); to prepare concerned parliaments for the voluntary national reviews to the HLPF; to prompt parliaments to perform a self-assessment of their capacity to implement the SDGs and to showcase best practices.

Cooperation with the United Nations system

List of activities undertaken by the IPU from 15 October 2015 to 15 March 2016

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 198th session
(Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

United Nations

The annual **Parliamentary Hearing** at the United Nations, jointly organized with the President of the General Assembly, took place on 8 and 9 February. The hearing was entitled *The world drug problem: Taking stock and strengthening the global response*. It was designed to make a contribution to a Special Session of the General Assembly on drugs (UNGASS 16) in April this year. A mix of MPs, Permanent Representatives, UN officials and civil society experts took part in panel discussions. The report of the hearing is an official document for UNGASS 16.

Consultations on a new **cooperation agreement** between the two organizations continued on the basis of a new draft that takes into account comments received by the UN Department of Legal Affairs. The Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Jan Eliasson, was personally involved in facilitating a timely conclusion to ongoing consultations in view of the 2016 resolution of the UN General Assembly *Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union*.

As part of the process leading up to the **UN General Assembly resolution on interaction with parliaments and the IPU**, expected in May or June, the IPU Secretary General and his team continued consultations about and provided input for the preparation of the UN Secretary-General's report that will provide the background to the resolution. The IPU provided a consolidated list of activities between the UN and IPU covering the two years since the UN Secretary-General's report in 2014. A working lunch to hear the views of Permanent Representatives on ways to strengthen the UN-IPU relationship was held on 10 February.

On 1–2 February, six members of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians participated in the 2016 session of the **Youth Forum** that takes place every year under the aegis of the Economic and Social Council. This year's session highlighted the youth-related targets of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the role of young people in facilitating the implementation of the SDGs at the national level.

There has been regular coordination with the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. The Envoy will take part in the IPU's Third Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians on 16 and 17 March in Lusaka, Zambia.

In January, the IPU President agreed to join the new High-Level Advisory Group of the UN Secretary General on **Every Woman, Every Child**, the long-running global initiative to support women's, adolescents' and children's health.

With funding from the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, the IPU organized a seminar for African parliaments on the implementation of **UN Security Council resolution 1540**. It raised awareness of the resolution as the linchpin of international action against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), particularly in the light of the growing terrorist threats from non-State actors. It also helped to strengthen parliaments' ability to assess the risk of WMDs and identify avenues of parliamentary action aimed at lowering risk in the region. The seminar took place in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, on 22 and 23 February.

The IPU contributed to the agenda and preparations for the third symposium of the **UN Development Cooperation Forum** which will be held in Brussels on 6–8 April. The meeting will focus on development cooperation issues that pertain specifically to the Least Developed Countries. It will also review the results of the Forum's survey on mutual accountability for development cooperation to which IPU members contributed in fall 2015.

The IPU worked with the **Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation**. Together with UNDP and OECD, the Partnership organized parliamentary focal points on development cooperation. It also began preparations for its second High-Level Meeting that will take place in Kenya in November.

In November 2015, the IPU submitted its response to a UN questionnaire on the **global monitoring process for the new SDGs**. This was the IPU's contribution to the report of the UN Secretary-General on that subject. Discussions were held with officials in the Department for Economic and Social Affairs, in order to organize a parliamentary contribution to the UN High-level Political Forum on sustainable development, which will meet in New York in July.

The IPU worked closely with UN partners (such as the UN Development Programme, World Health Organization and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) in the context of **the South Asian Speakers' Summit on the SDGs** (Dhaka, Bangladesh, 30–31 January). This will be followed by a regional Seminar on the SDGs for the parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe, to be held in Bucharest, Romania, on 18–19 April.

The IPU cooperated with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic Commission for Africa in building parliamentary capacity to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (UNSC 1325) in Arab countries. A series of four training workshops for parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and representatives of national women's machineries were held in Tunis and Amman from November 2015 to February 2016.

UNOG / USA Mission: International Geneva Gender Champions Initiative

In November 2015, the IPU Secretary General joined the International Geneva Gender Champions Initiative, led by the UN Office in Geneva (UNOG) and the United States Mission to the UN and Other International Organizations in Geneva. The initiative enables champions among the heads of Geneva-based international organizations and diplomatic missions to commit to ensuring that there are women in all debates and events happening in Geneva (the Geneva Gender Panel Parity Pledge); this complements two additional commitments made by UNOG and the United States Mission on their work to promote gender equality.

OHCHR – CEDAW Committee

At the 133rd IPU Assembly in October 2015, two members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) took part in several sessions of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. The contributions of the members, Ms I. Jahan and Ms. L. Nadaraia, were designed to highlight CEDAW's approach to the protection of migrant women (particularly those who seek asylum due to gender-related persecution), as well as to highlight the links between CEDAW and UNSC 1325.

The IPU prepared reports on parliaments' involvement in the CEDAW reporting process and women's political participation in the States reporting to the 62nd and 63rd CEDAW sessions, held in October 2015 and February 2016 in Geneva.

Working group meetings were also held between CEDAW members and the IPU's Gender Partnership Programme during CEDAW sessions. The meetings discussed various aspects of the parliamentary oversight of CEDAW, and shared information on efforts to link up the post-2015 development agenda with the CEDAW Convention.

UN Development Programme

Work progressed on the second edition of the **Global Parliamentary Report**, published jointly with UNDP. A joint call for written input was issued in October 2015, and a survey questionnaire for parliaments was developed. An expert group meeting was held in February 2016 to discuss the structure and content of the Report, based on the results of the survey and other data collected. The Report is due to be launched by the end of 2016.

The IPU continued to work closely with UNDP country offices, providing capacity-building programmes to national parliaments. Over the past six months, these programmes have been run in Afghanistan, Myanmar and Tunisia. Of particular note was the IPU-UNDP support programme to the parliament of Myanmar, where parliamentary elections were successfully held in November 2015.

In November, the UNDP Administrator and the IPU Secretary General formally invited all UN system agencies to adhere to the **Common Principles for Support to Parliaments**, following which the Principles were endorsed by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS). The Principles aim to ensure the best possible results from assistance and other external support provided to parliaments worldwide.

OHCHR

In October 2015, a new **Handbook for Parliamentarians on migration** was published by the IPU and its partners, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Handbook no.24, *Migration, human rights and governance*, discusses migration issues and provides tools and policy responses to address the international movement of people. To mark the launch of the handbook, ILO and OHCHR assisted the IPU in developing and implementing a campaign to raise awareness among MPs about key international treaties on migration, and to mobilize those MPs to promote their ratification and implementation.

The IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, which examines allegations of violations of the human rights of MPs, continued to work closely with OHCHR and its field offices in order to help progress individual cases currently before the Committee.

The IPU and OHCHR advanced towards finalizing a joint compilation of good practices of parliamentary involvement in the work of the UN Human Rights Council, particularly in its Universal Periodic Review.

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

A conference on statelessness was held in Cape Town on 26–27 November. It was co-organized by the IPU, the Parliament of South Africa and UNHCR, and entitled *Ensuring Everyone's Right to Nationality: The Role of Parliaments in Preventing and Ending Statelessness*. The meeting identified parliamentary strategies to support UNHCR's campaign to end statelessness within 10 years through a 10-point Global Action Plan.

UNAIDS

A **High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly** to review global commitments on HIV/AIDS is scheduled for June 2016. In support of the meeting, the IPU and UNAIDS began work to provide a parliamentary contribution, including a possible briefing for MPs attending the meeting. UN General Assembly Resolution 70/228, adopted in December 2015, specifically invites the IPU to contribute to the meeting.

New IPU-UNAIDS **guidelines on ways to speed up HIV treatment** were published in October 2015. *Fast-tracking HIV treatment: Parliamentary action and policy options*, defines a range of measures open to parliaments, which aim to ensure that all citizens with HIV have access to treatment.

UNICEF

In October, the IPU and UNICEF organized a **parliamentary seminar on malnutrition** in the region of the Southern Africa Development Community. The Namibian Parliament hosted the event. The meeting recognized the critical importance of food and nutrition security to economic development, to the survival and healthy growth of children, and to breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty. Participating MPs underscored their commitment to ensure that necessary laws and budgets were in place, to scrutinize government policies more closely, and to further galvanize parliamentary action to tackle high malnutrition rates.

UN WOMEN

In cooperation with UN Women, the annual **parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women** took place on 15 March 2016 in New York. The meeting tracked the main theme of the Commission's session: the links between women's empowerment and sustainable development, with a focus on the power of legislation. A parliamentary side event was held on 14 March about the implementation of UNSC 1325 in Arab countries.

UN Women and the IPU also launched a joint project of support to the Turkish Grand National Assembly. The project, entitled *Gender Equality in Political Leadership and Participation in Turkey*, was launched in Ankara on 7 December 2015. It aims to support political leadership and the participation of women in Turkey by using the transformative capacity of parliament. The project is being implemented in partnership with the Committee on Equal Opportunity for Women and Men of the Grand National Assembly.

The IPU, UN Women, the UN Development Programme, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance supported the organization of two e-discussions. One was on the role of parliaments in implementing UNSC 1325 in Arab countries; the other was called *Parliamentary Oversight of Gender Equality* and was hosted by iKNOWpolitics.org.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The IPU successfully implemented a funding agreement with WHO for 2015. Under the agreement, the two organizations assisted parliaments in countries most affected by maternal and child mortality to develop legal frameworks and improve accountability for results. The agreement also produced a comprehensive study on the impact of legislation on child marriage rates in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as a number of activities aimed at community engagement on the issue. Consultations on a new agreement started towards the end of 2015. The IPU and WHO also started preparations for the first-ever parliamentary side event at the World Health Assembly. The 69th WHA will take place in May in Geneva.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The IPU and WMO held a series of consultations with a view to concluding a Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum would provide a formal framework for joint activities aimed at strengthening parliaments' capacities to tackle the threat of climate change. In his address to the Parliamentary Meeting organized by the IPU on the side-lines of the COP21/CMP11 meeting in Paris, the WMO Secretary-General underscored the importance of basing legislative action on the findings of climate science.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

In advance of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference (Nairobi, December 2015), the IPU stepped up its campaign to expedite parliaments' ratifications of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). The TFA focuses on improving border procedures and on updating antiquated customs rules. By the end of 2015, over 60 WTO members had formally accepted the TFA.

The need to increase the efficiency of the parliamentary oversight of multilateral trade negotiations was reiterated by the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO at its session in Brussels in February 2016. The plenary session of the Conference will take place on WTO premises in June 2016.

UNFCCC

On 5 and 6 December 2015, at the time of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21/CMP11) in Paris, the IPU and the French Parliament jointly organized a Parliamentary Meeting. It was a resounding success and reaffirmed the leading role of the IPU as the convenor of parliamentary events held in conjunction with annual UNFCCC sessions. This fact was acknowledged by the UN Secretary-General himself, when he addressed the inaugural session of the Parliamentary Meeting. Among other guest speakers were the heads of OECD, UNEP, UNESCO, WMO and IPCC.

The Outcome Document of the Parliamentary Meeting made clear that legislators were conscious of their own share of responsibility for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted by UNFCCC Parties at COP21, including at the stage of its ratification, acceptance or approval. To provide a comprehensive legislative response to climate change and complement the Paris Agreement with concrete action, the IPU has prepared a Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change.

Report of the Committee on Middle East Questions

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 198th session
(Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

The President of the Committee, Ms. D. Pascal Allende, opened the meeting with a brief overview of the recent visit to the region by a delegation from the Committee. The visit had provided the delegation with a better understanding of the situation in the region and broadened its perspective of the reality on the ground. The report of the visit reflected the solid commitment to peace that the delegation had encountered at all its meetings. The atmosphere in which the visit took place had been very positive and constructive. All parties at the meetings were open to frank discussions and demonstrated a readiness to work together and to create conditions which were conducive to peace.